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# THE JERUSALEM POST

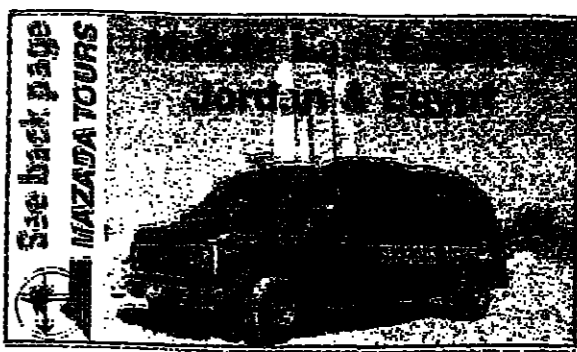
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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9, 1996

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## Netanyahu seeks to improve ties with Amman

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is considering dispatching his foreign policy adviser Dore Gold to Jordan in the coming days, in a bid to mend fences with King Hussein, officials say.

Hussein's anger with Netanyahu began after not being consulted by Israel on the opening of the Hasmonean Tunnel exit in Jerusalem, and continued during last week's Washington summit which ended without conclusive results.

day in the London-based daily *Asraaq al-Awsat*, Hussein blasted the Netanyahu government and questioned whether the region was headed to war.

power? I've had the chance to know the Israelis quite well and I'm worried about them," King Hussein said.

in this week's edition of *Newsweek* whereby at the final hunch of last week's White House summit headed by President Bill Clinton, Hussein turned to Netanyahu and looked him in the eye, saying:

lodge a formal complaint with Israel over the tunnel, asserting that the move runs counter to the 1994 peace treaty which makes clear that Jordan has a special role in protecting Moslem holy places in Jerusalem.

### In today's Business Supplement

- ★ Q & A with PECDAR's Shtayyeh
- ★ Israelis in Australia
- ★ East German workers demand equal pay for equal work

## Money

### Erez talks fail to show substantial progress

JON IMMANUEL, DAVID MAKOVSKY and tim

MEMBERS of the Palestinian delegation to the talks at the Erez Crossing yesterday proposed the establishment of a joint security command, along the same lines as the District Coordinating Office in Gaza.

A source close to the negotiations said the talks on Hebron redeployment demonstrated "real engagement" and "both sides engaged in the issues" and did not just make speeches.

US observer Dennis Ross issued a statement last night on behalf of both sides saying they "are making a serious effort to understand each other's concerns."

Immediately after the talks, which lasted about four hours on the Israeli side of Erez, the Palestinian team reported to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

To improve the effectiveness of the talks, Israeli and Palestinian teams were pared back to six people on each side.

Both Dan Shomron and Saeb Erekat continued to head their respective teams. "Smaller teams makes for more productive talks," and reduces the possibility of grandstanding, the first source indicated.

Negotiators were apparently also encouraged by a compromise that enabled the Karni crossing to be open to goods coming in and out of Gaza.

Sources make clear that Israel wants to preclude the possibility of Palestinians shooting at settlers in Hebron from the surrounding hills. They also want to limit the type of ammunition being used by Palestinian Police in Hebron.

Israel Radio reported that on Monday the Palestinian side walked out of the talks in the first hour after Israel raised the issue of hot pursuit of gunmen into the area to be controlled by Palestinian Police, and that only the intervention of US special envoy Dennis Ross brought them back.

The Palestinians would like to engage the Americans more actively in the talks. Hassan Asfour, the most experienced of the Palestinian negotiators in the team, said he was disappointed that the Americans did not take a more active position in the talks.

Asfour denied that there had been any negotiation on these ideas, and said that the Palestinian team merely listened Monday while the Israeli side of "spreading lies" by talking of negotiations. He himself had said Monday night that "nothing new" was presented in the talks.



President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, greet PA Chairman Yasser Arafat at their Caesarea home yesterday. (AP)

## The chairman and the president

DAVID RUDGE

THE Israel Air Force helicopter circled overhead once before landing on a cleared site in the brush-covered sand dunes between the sea and President Ezer Weizman's Caesarea home.

The arrival of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat from Gaza was watched closely by Weizman and his wife Reuma from their porch, overlooking their rear garden and swimming pool, and by scores of police, security personnel and journalists.

It was Arafat's first official public visit to Israel, following the secret one last November when he met Leah Rabin to express his condolences after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

Hundreds of police and armed security personnel were on duty, lining the roads, manning checkpoints, patrolling Weizman's house and gardens, and keeping a watch on the area from the roof of Weizman's villa and neighboring houses.

Police helicopters also hovered overhead and a Coast Guard boat was stationed off the shore opposite Weizman's home.

meters of the house, with security spread out over an even wider district," said Northern Region police commander Amos Azari.

There had been reports there might be attempts to disrupt the meeting. But the day passed quietly with only two demonstrations by several left and right wingers at the entrance to the estate where Weizman's home is situated.

Police detained one of the demonstrators for wearing a shirt of the outlawed Kach party.

The meeting itself went according to schedule. In keeping with the informal atmosphere it was held around an oval table, filled with refreshments, on the covered outdoor porch overlooking the garden and sea.

The Palestinian delegation included Arafat deputy Abu Mazen, steering committee head Saeb Erekat, PA internal security heads Mahmoud Dahlan and Jibril Rajoub, and PA secretary-general Tayeb Abdel Rahim.

and his aides, including Arye Shumer, director-general of Beit Hanassi, Weizman's military adjutant Brig.-Gen. Shimon Hefetz, and Foreign Ministry director-general Eitan Bentsur, appeared relaxed.

After 45 minutes, the group discussions broke up, according to the timetable, and Weizman and Arafat moved indoors for private talks, while their aides formulated respective statements summarizing the meeting.

The meeting was described as an attempt to improve relations and to help create a better atmosphere of understanding. An added touch was provided at the suggestion of Reuma Weizman - olive branches were placed on the table where Weizman and Arafat later met with waiting journalists at the end of their private talks which lasted, as scheduled, for 30 minutes.

At the conclusion of the press conference, Weizman once again moved outside to the porch, talking amicably to reporters as he watched the helicopter lift off, taking Arafat and his entourage back to Gaza.

## Maj.-Gen. Shahor: Flare-up in territories could end peace process

LIAT COLLINS and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

GOVERNMENT Coordinator in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor said yesterday that there is a real threat of another flare-up with the Palestinians, and that such an outburst could lead to the collapse of the whole peace process.

Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shahor said there is tension in the territories and that the real test would be the results of the steering committee talks.

According to an official briefing, Shahor said he understood from statements by senior Palestinian Authority figures that there is disappointment in the outcome of the Washington summit. He said PA Chairman Yasser Arafat feels frustrated, although he still hopes for US aid. He said there is opposition in the territories to any reopening of the agreements.

Shahor did not rule out many possible reasons for a flare-up, including a struggle between rival Palestinian groups or even a road accident, as happened with the intifada. Arafat was behind the recent rioting, although there is no evidence he gave the orders to fire, Shahor said. He also said Arafat was involved in the Joseph's Tomb incident in Nablus, but he did not elaborate.

Shahor said the recent quiet showed Arafat was in control of the territories and the PA is interested in calm.

had strengthened the extremists and there is evidence of more militancy.

Shahor said the Palestinian economy had definitely suffered. Palestinian estimates place the economic damage from the events in the territories at NIS 10 million.

Israel estimates place unemployment in Gaza at between 25-30 percent and in Judea and Samaria at between 15-20%. There is a backlog of goods in the ports, and the pace of construction in Gaza has considerably slowed down.

Shahor said there has been a slight easing of the closure. The army will allow 10,000 Palestinian laborers from the Gaza Strip to enter Israel as of 4 a.m. this morning. Only married men over the age of 29 are being allowed to cross.

An agreement was also reached to reopen the Karni Crossing, greatly enhancing the flow of goods in and out of the Gaza Strip. Israel had warned the Palestinian Police at the crossing dismantled their automatic rifles, but they refused. In the end it was agreed that both Palestinian and Israeli forces at the site would carry only pistols.

The army said that food and medicine would be allowed in through Karni and Palestinian vegetables for export would be allowed out. Until now, trucks were allowed through only at

Erez Crossing, which had a maximum capacity of a dozen trucks. At Karni, up to 50 trucks at a time are able to cross.

Nearly all the MKs across the political spectrum spoke out against the closure. Likud MK Gideon Ezra said the government should make easing the closure and improving the economic situation in the territories its top priority.

Molodet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said the closure should be "intelligent" and "humane." He suggested reopening the train service from Gaza to the Dan region to prevent the suffering of people waiting in the sun to cross through the checkpoints in private vehicles.

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker described the current situation as "sophisticated occupation."

Labor MK Haim Ramon called the closure policy "stupid" and called for separation from the Palestinians.

National Religious Party MK Hanan Pnati said the closure did not solve the security problems.

Labor MK Ori Orr said there is no alternative but to allow workers into Israel and permit the transfer of goods.

NRP MK Shaul Yahalom said the closure policy should end because "someone who can't put food on the table for his family becomes a potential terrorist."

## Arafat to Weizman: Shooting will stop

DAVID RUDGE

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat pledged yesterday that Palestinian police would not fire again at Israelis.

"This is my permanent order to our policemen," Arafat told reporters during a meeting with President Ezer Weizman in Caesarea. "What is important is to increase and strengthen more and more relations and coordination between both of us."

Weizman, who initiated the meeting at his private residence to help smooth relations following the violence in the territories and assist the peace process, said Arafat also made the promise during their private talks.

The president was asked whether he had received an unequivocal assurance that there would be no more shooting at Israelis or IDF soldiers.

"In life there is nothing unequivocal, except perhaps death. He [Arafat] reiterated to me and said it publicly that he had given orders not to fire again," Weizman said.

"I hope [this will be the case]. He understands that if another tragedy like this occurs, without me going into who fired first or afterward, it could blow up all the process, to the detriment of both sides," he said.

Arafat and his entourage of senior aides flew from Gaza to Weizman's home in an IAF helicopter.

Roundtable discussions, which lasted for nearly an hour, were followed by private talks between Arafat and Weizman, who then held a joint press conference.

Weizman said they had discussed the whole range of issues, apparently including the thorny problem of Hebron, as well as the recent violence in the territories.

"I am very happy to have hosted the chairman and his friends here in our home. We spoke about all the issues and of course raised the tragedy that occurred, the opening of fire and the losses on both sides and we agreed that it must not happen again. It would be a disaster," Weizman said.

"From here, we again issue a call, both of us, to achieve peace through negotiation, non-violence and through mutual understanding, each with his own problem, and the creation of a common language and common structure, to find a solution to the difficult questions that face us."

Arafat reiterated that peace is the only way to achieve real and lasting security in the Middle East.

"This meeting is not just between the two of us but sincerely reiterates and strengthens the peace process," he said.

"We [Palestinians and Israelis] are not only neighbors, but cousins. We are destined to live together, as cousins, brothers and friends and as neighbors so we can have a new chapter in the Middle East where peace can be all over the region."

"Ever since taking the decision to join the peace process, we have renounced violence to open a new chapter in the hope of achieving a historic reconciliation and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace."

"Violence is not our policy, nor is it our strategy, but we must be firmly committed, both of us, to live side-by-side in good neighborhood relations based on the mutual respect of the rights, interests and security of both Palestinians and Israelis, for the sake of our children and your children," Arafat said.

## Frolicking Diana video is a hoax

LONDON (AP) - A black and white video purporting to depict Princess Diana frolicking in briefs and a bra with her former riding instructor James Hewitt during their five-year affair was a hoax, said the newspaper that published shots from the video.

The Sun newspaper said in a statement last night that it had been the victim of "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade" and apologized profusely to the princess and Hewitt for any hurt or offense caused after it had been "conned by cunning fraudsters."

Full report, Page 4

## 'Clara Hakdosha' sweeps Academy Awards

THE film *Clara Hakdosha* swept the Israeli Academy Awards ceremony last night. The film won Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Director and

awards for editing and its score. The film will be Israel's entry in the foreign film competition for an Oscar at the US Academy Awards next year. Jerusalem Post Staff

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# Likud, Labor wage war of words

## Netanyahu: Opposition failed its first test

## Barak: Netanyahu total failure as prime minister

## Arabs call for force to secure holy places

**THE** opposition "failed its first test" by not supporting the government when Israel was under attack, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

Speaking at a meeting of coalition MKs, Netanyahu said: "It failed its first test by supporting the opposition. At the same time that IDF soldiers were in the heat of the battle, in extremely difficult fighting whose results we know, the opposition led by Peres attacked the government. Not only did they attack it here at home, they mustered in front of the cameras of the international news networks and attacked the government during the fighting itself."

Instead of putting pressure on the Palestinians and backing the government, the opposition attacked the government and backed the Palestinians and helped the attack in the world media, Netanyahu said.

"When we were in opposition, we backed the government when it was under siege," Netanyahu said, noting the world backlash during Operations Accountability and Grapes of Wrath.

Netanyahu said the government had inherited two difficult problems: the Oslo Accords and the economic situation.

Both Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy used the meeting to hit back at opposition

**LIAT COLLINS**

leader Shimon Peres for his attack on the government during Monday's opening Knesset session.

He said although he was bound to abide by the Oslo Accords, he had warned of its dangers all along and particularly cited the number of Palestinian Authority policemen "in military fatigues, armed with Kalashnikovs, and calling themselves generals." He said this was more of an army and bore no resemblance to other police forces in the world.

"It's unmitigated gall for Peres who gave [the Palestinians] guns to call on us to take them back. Only somebody who's never held a gun can say such a thing," Netanyahu said, and accused Peres of being completely cut off from reality.

He said he expected the opposition to start respecting the norms of responsibility.

Levy reiterated this, saying, "I have no complaints about the Arabs and others because their interests are not the same as ours, but for those here at home to join in the chorus on the other side... was the height of irresponsibility."

He accused the opposition of trying to delegitimize the government.

National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat called on the prime minister to at least refrain from giving the Palestinians more guns, referring to the Hebron redeployment.

Third Way MK Yehuda Harel said his party fully supported the prime minister and if it had reservations it would tell him in private. He said the general public was behind the idea of separating from the Palestinians, desiring security and not wanting a return to the 1967 borders.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor warned of even harder economic times ahead and possibly larger budget cuts.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, in response to the attack by Netanyahu, later issued a statement claiming the prime minister "knew all along that the opening of the [Hamas] Tunnel would bring about a dangerous deterioration in the security situation. The prime minister believed that the collapse of security would allow him to finally shake off the Oslo Accords."

"The prime minister, who brought about a conflict and tried to exploit it for his political needs, must be very careful about blaming others for 'an international campaign of incitement' and 'backing the Palestinians,'" Sarid said.

MK Ehud Barak yesterday branded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a complete failure, who is lashing out at the opposition to hide his own shortcomings from the public.

Commenting on Netanyahu's attacks on the opposition, Barak said, "Netanyahu's safe peace method is yet to bring us much more terror and blood [in the future]. He is the last one to preach morality to Labor. In the worst situations, we will never send Labor youth with posters saying Bibi is a murderer, or Bibi is a traitor [as the Likud did to Yitzhak Rabin when it was in opposition]. We shall not stand on the balcony of Zion Square while below us pictures of Netanyahu are burned after the terrorist attacks to come. And we shall not come to the death sites of terrorist attacks before the body parts have yet been removed, to dance politically on the victims' blood."

Barak advised Netanyahu to maintain complete silence in the next five years and not show contempt for the public's memory.

"The public is not a bunch of fools who can be led astray by pious, amateurish incompetence, just because it's presented in a nice package," he said.

Barak said Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, rather than Labor, was responsible for

**MICHAEL YUDELMAN**

the bloody events in the wake of the new Hasmonaean Tunnel exit, "but Netanyahu cannot evade his contribution to the affair, in his irresponsible, inexplicable insistence on trying out his lighter over a fuel tank."

Referring to Netanyahu's accusation that Labor had "given the Palestinian guns," Barak said the Palestinian Police were armed on the basis of the Camp David commitments to set up a "strong Palestinian police," as part of the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

Barak's leadership yesterday launched an information campaign regarding Netanyahu's government, in the first of a series of press conferences criticizing the government's shortcomings.

Summing up the government's first 110 days in office, Barak accused Netanyahu's government of "deteriorating Israel's security to the point of a fatal entanglement with the Palestinians, military tension with the Lebanese and Syrians, a cold shoulder from the Jordan and a rift with Egypt."

Barak charged Netanyahu not merely with incompetence, "but with a kind of blindness which prevents the prime minister from making realistic assessments of

events. Maybe it's also a psychological fixation which makes it difficult for him to see the Middle East realistically. In the past, such things have led to disaster."

MK Uzi Baram said Netanyahu is the worst prime minister Israel has ever had, noting that "we are worried not only by his policy but by his lack of character, lack of stability and caving in to pressures from within and without. Peres said he misses elements in Begin's government. I even miss Shamir. At least there was stability, you knew what he was doing. Netanyahu is bad for the region, bad for the Jews, and maybe he's good only for Habad."

Baram lambasted Habad, saying the organization had behaved abominably in supporting Netanyahu's candidacy, using state funds it received for masquerading as a non-political movement. He said Labor would not forget its account with Habad.

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli said Netanyahu had brought the peace process to such a crisis that President Ezer Weizman had to intervene and meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday. Zvilli said the meeting was an act of non-confidence in Netanyahu, the likes of which he could not remember in any previous government.

**CAIRO (AP)** - Arabs expressed deepening anger yesterday by calling for the use of force to secure Moslem and Christian rights in Jerusalem.

In the Sudanese capital Khartoum, some 2,000 demonstrators marched through downtown shouting for a "holy war" to free all Palestinian territory from Israeli rule.

In Egypt, the nation's highest Islamic and Christian clerics urged Arabs to unite and use force to drive Israel out of east Jerusalem.

Syria expressed deepening skepticism over whether Netanyahu's government can be trusted.

"Netanyahu's stands prove that there are no guarantees that Israel might ever honor its commitments toward other states," said an editorial in the newspaper *Tishrin*, which reflects Syrian government thinking.

Yesterday's demonstration in Khartoum, sponsored by supporters of Sudan's Moslem fundamentalist government, drew some 2,000 Sudanese and Palestinians.

Protesters chanted for "jihad" and heard Deputy Speaker Abdul-Aziz Shidouh urge "all Moslems to salvage al-Quds from the Israeli hegemony."

In Cairo, Sheik Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, an influential Moslem leader, joined Pope Shenouda III, head of the Coptic Church, at a seminar Monday night in unusually caustic criticism of Israel.

"Force is one of the characteristics of God and his prophets, and it is a just force," Tantawi said. "We have to stand by the Palestinians and give them weapons and aid... We have to enter the battle as long as we are right."

Shenouda called for Israel to leave eastern Jerusalem.



Right-wing protesters dressed as Palestinians criticize the foreign media's coverage of the political situation, during a demonstration in Jerusalem yesterday. CNN and the BBC were their main targets. (Reuters)

## North American business conference to test investor confidence in Israel

**MARILYN HENRY**  
NEW YORK

**WITH** \$50 billion in projects up for grabs, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon prepared yesterday to open a two-day business conference in New York that could be a test of investor confidence in the Netanyahu government.

Sharon, accompanied by a handful of MKs, is seeking private American investment for railroads, the Trans-Israel Highway from the Galilee to Beersheba, electricity expansion, and natural gas projects.

It was not clear how the US business community would respond, especially in light of the recent disturbances in Jerusalem and the territories. However, David Rubin, economics minister to North America, said that, so far, "there is no turmoil among investors."

Although "no investor likes instability," Rubin said, no Americans have pulled out or postponed business ventures because of the disturbances. "Everyone realizes that these events have nothing to do with the economy," Rubin said.

At a news conference yesterday in advance of the first Israel North America Business Conference, Sharon distanced himself from the government's current political dilemmas, saying, "Thank God, as minister of infrastructure, I don't have to deal with all those controversial issues. I can deal only with positive things." But, he added: "I am completely sure there will be peace with the Palestinians and maybe in the future with Syria. It's hard but it will happen."

Sharon said the entire region will benefit from the Israeli projects, which include a natural gas pipeline with Egypt. By the year 2010, he said, Israel will have road projects valued at \$6b., water projects worth \$5.5b., and up to \$3b. in railroad endeavors.

Although the Israeli projects are heavily dependent on labor, Sharon said that Palestinians' ability to work will depend on security. "I don't see any reason why we should risk the lives of Israelis in order to build these things," he said.

## Feiglin charges Rabin government with breaking the law

**HERB KEINON**

**QUOTING** Martin Luther King on civil disobedience, and the former head of Nicolae Ceausescu's secret service on Yasser Arafat, Moshe Feiglin - one of the leaders of Zo Artzeenu - began testimony in his sedition trial yesterday by charging that the former government was guilty of breaking the law.

Feiglin, justifying the protest acts of his organization, variously charged in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court that the Rabin government was "born in sin," "broke the law," "lied" and "deceived" the public.

Yesterday marked the first day of the defense testimony in the 10-month-old trial of Feiglin and co-Zo Artzeenu head Shmuel Sackett for sedition and eight other offenses stemming from their civil disobedience campaign of the summer of 1995, which included blocking a number of key traffic arteries around the country.

Molested MK Benny Elon was also originally one of the defendants, but the case against him was put on hold because of the immunity he now enjoys as a Knesset member.

The three were accused of conspiring to "interfere with carrying out the decisions of the legitimate government of Israel, which had been legally taken and confirmed by the Knesset, in connection with government policy in Judea and Samaria; and to force the government to change its policies and retreat from decisions legally taken in these matters."

All this was accomplished by appeals to the public to carry out illegal acts, including massive interference with public order and police activity, and in order to break the bonds of adherence to the rules of law.

Feiglin's testimony comes in the same week that Meretz MK Dedi

## Ben-Porat unlikely to rule on tunnel

**EVERLYN GORDON**

**By law,** the committee can insist on such an inquiry even if the comptroller does not agree.

**STATE** Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said she is unlikely to prepare an opinion on the government's decision to open a new exit for the Western Wall tunnel, but she will consider the request.

Ben-Porat was responding to a request that she do so by MK Moshe Shahal (Labor).

Shahal argued that the events leading up to the opening of the exit are an ideal topic for the comptroller's scrutiny. It is important to determine which of the relevant bodies were involved in the decision, and to what degree they anticipated what actually occurred, he said, and the comptroller is the most appropriate person to uncover the answers to these questions.

Ben-Porat said she would consider Shahal's request. However, she said, this is a highly political issue, and it is therefore doubtful whether it should be looked at "in isolation" so soon after the fact, at a time when the issue is still very sensitive.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said he would invite the army, the police and the intelligence services to a meeting on the subject, and after hearing what they have to say, the committee will decide whether it should insist on an inquiry by the comptroller.

## Sara's ex to reveal all

**SARA** Netanyahu's ex-husband, Doron Newberger, plans to publish a book about their life together, Channel 2 reported last night. The couple was divorced in 1987.

Publisher Motti Morel, who managed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's election campaign, met with Newberger and was shocked by his intentions.

Sara Netanyahu tried to contact Newberger to discuss the matter, but was unsuccessful.

Several of the prime minister's associates have tried to dissuade Newberger from publishing the book. The Prime Minister's Office refused to discuss the matter.

Newberger, now remarried with two children, was married to Netanyahu for seven years and lived with her for two years before their marriage. He said that after the election, when he realized that she might be involved in the political process, he felt obliged to write about their life together.

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

**THE WEEKLY MEETING** of the Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place at 8:00pm tonight at the Y.M.C.A. King David St. It will be devoted to a public service forum on "Living With" led by a panel of four experts. Moderator: Ms. Tamar Eshel. The public is invited.

**CORRECTION**  
In yesterday's photo caption on Page 12, the Knesset Secretary should have been identified as Shmuel Jacobson.

**קרן קיימת לישראל**  
**KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL**

Cordially invites you to the inauguration ceremony of the forest in memory of **THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF RHODES AND KOS** which will take place on **Wednesday, October 16, 1996** at **10 a.m.** at **Kesalon, in the Jerusalem Hills** Transportation from Jerusalem upon request **RSVP not later than Sunday October 13, 1996**

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The sale of the State Shares is exempt from the obligation to hold a tender, under the "Obligation of Tenders Regulations - 1993".

The method of privatizing Yozma was approved by the Finance Committee of the Knesset on October 7, 1996.

In order to remove any doubt, it is hereby clarified that this advertisement does not constitute an invitation to the general public to purchase the State Shares, nor does it constitute an offer or undertaking on the part of the Government to sell the State Shares. The Government may, at its sole and absolute discretion, conduct with any party, if it shall decide to proceed with the said sale.

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מלוא מן אלטל

# Jewish guides protest exclusion from Jericho, Bethlehem

HAIM SHAPIRO and EVELYN GORDON

NO Jews are being allowed into Bethlehem and Jericho, and it is the army which is keeping them out, according to Shmuel Bar-Ei, chairman of the Israel Tour Guides Association.

Bar-Ei, speaking at an emergency meeting of the association on Monday night to discuss the present crisis in tourism, said that buses owned by Israeli Arabs, with Israeli Arab drivers, have been going into Bethlehem and Jericho. It is only the Jewish-owned companies, with Jewish drivers, which have to stop at the IDF barrier, forcing their tourists to walk a few hundred meters to a point where they are taken by a Palestinian bus.

The IDF has said that it is barring all Israelis from Area A, the area under Palestinian control, of which Bethlehem is a part, because of fears for the safety of Israelis there. Originally, the army also barred Israeli journalists, but it later relented on that decision.

Bar-Ei said that the association has appealed to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in an effort to change the army ruling regarding guides and drivers.

"We are fighting for our existence," said Bar-Ei, who said that tourism by groups using guides was down by 30-40 percent compared to last year.

The official rate for guides is \$100 a day, but even in good times most guides only work 15 to 20 days a month, he said. Most do not benefit from unemployment compensation when there is no work, he said, because they do not work a minimum of 150 days a year.

Those attending the gathering condemned the practice whereby non-certified guides, mostly Christian clergy leading pilgrims, are allowed to guide groups, despite laws to the contrary. The group also called upon the Tourism Ministry to allo-

cate NIS10 million in emergency compensation for the guides to carry them through this period.

Meanwhile, Knesset Economics Committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) and committee member Avi Yehzekel (Labor) said yesterday that they plan to submit a bill to compensate the tourism industry for the damage it is suffering on account of the recent violence, similar to the bill which compensates farmers for natural disasters. Goldschmidt said such compensation is justified because, just as in a natural disaster, the damage the industry is suffering now is completely beyond its control.

Ruby Harley, head of the Tourism Ministry's overseas division, told the committee that the industry has been in a deep slump since March, due to the suicide bombings and then Operation Grapes of Wrath. The quiet over the past few months had made the ministry hope the winter season would be better, he said, "but with the opening of the tunnel, we now expect the damage to continue until spring 1997."

In September, the ministry had embarked on a \$5.8 million advertising campaign in Europe and the US, but the recent violence necessitated its cancellation, he added. "We believe it is possible to overcome the crisis... if the situation stays calm, and if we get a budget of NIS 100m. over the next three years," Harley concluded.

Industry representatives also stressed the damage they are suffering and the need for government assistance to ensure that offices and hotels do not shut down. Avi Rosenthal, director-general of the Israel Hotel Association, said that since tour packages are generally sold six to nine months in advance, the hoteliers are worried less about the immediate future than about the Christmas and Pessah seasons.



French tourists walk past an IDF checkpoint yesterday to visit Bethlehem, which Israeli tour buses have been barred from entering. (Reuters)

# Wakf closes Temple Mount to non-Moslems

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM'S Moslem leaders have temporarily closed the Temple Mount to all but Moslem worshippers, on grounds the site should not be open to the public so soon after three Palestinians were allegedly killed by police during rioting there two weeks ago.

There are contradictory reports on when the mount was closed. Wakf officials said it was shut down immediately after the September 28 clashes with police. But police said it has only been closed for the past several days.

Yehuda Etzion, head of the Hai Velayam group that demands an end to Moslem authority on the mount, said the move shows the Palestinians, and not Israel, have final say at the site.

Police sources said the mount was closed after consultations with Wakf officials, and that police approved of the move. "The only one hurt by the closure is the Wakf itself, which makes money from visitors," a police source said.

Wakf director Adnan Husseini said Jerusalem's Moslem leaders would decide tomorrow when the mount would be reopened. "We can't have it opened when the blood of our relatives who were killed by police is still fresh on the ground," Husseini said.

Meanwhile, the B'Tselem human rights group announced yesterday it conducted an investigation into the September 28 clashes at the Temple Mount, and found that "police used lethal weapons in situations in which their lives were not threatened."

The group also claims to have evidence that police used live ammunition in breaking up the demonstrations after Friday prayers at Al-Aksa. The evidence is to be presented today at a Jerusalem press conference.

A Jerusalem police spokeswoman declined to comment on B'Tselem's findings, on grounds the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Division is conducting an inquiry into the matter.

# Capital's Migdal Ha'ir evacuated after fire

BILL HUTMAN

THE 22-story Migdal Ha'ir building in central Jerusalem was evacuated yesterday after smoke began billowing from a ground-floor restaurant's chimney. Firefighters feared the building would catch on fire.

A firefighter and policemen were lightly injured, but the fire was brought under control quickly before any damage was done to the building.

"I don't want to think about what could have resulted if we hadn't arrived at the scene quick-

ly," Jerusalem fire chief Rami Yaffe said.

Yaffe said grease apparently caught fire in the chimney of the grill of the Mi Vami restaurant.

"The chimney runs through the building's parking lot and then up through the 22 floors to the roof and could have easily set fires on any of the floors," Yaffe said.

The fire chief said the building has an emergency staircase as required by law, but that he would recommend an additional emergency exit be added.

# Health food products to be allowed to claim benefits

JUDY SIEGEL

THE law banning food companies from making therapeutic claims for their products has been amended, and the Health Ministry will now allow foods with low-fat, low-sugar, low-sodium and high-fiber contents to be labeled as being beneficial to health.

The amendments, approved this week by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, were prepared by the ministry. For example, low-salt products can claim to be good for patients with hypertension; no- or low-sugar products may say they are for diabetics, losing weight or reducing dental caries; low-fat products can claim they are for people with cardiovascular diseases; and high-fiber products can be labeled as helping to prevent colon cancer.

Dr. Brian Coussin, director of the ministry's Food Service Division, said yesterday that the

amendments do not yet allow companies selling products like herbs, garlic or yoghurt to maintain that these are beneficial to health or prevent or treat medical conditions. But he expects that additional changes within the coming year will allow this too.

The new rules set down exactly what wording the packages and advertisements may use, and how many grams of salt, sugar and fat per 100 grams constitute a small amount.

In recent years, many food manufacturers have been claiming that their various products "shrink" enlarged prostates, reduce the incidence of gynecological infections, protect people from heart attacks and so on. The ministry has filed complaints against some of them, but newspaper ads continue to make exaggerated, unproven and illegal claims.

# Mobile intensive care unit treats boy after scorpion bite

A Magen David Adom mobile intensive care unit on Monday saved a five-year-old Jerusalem boy who suffered anaphylactic shock after being bitten by a scorpion. The MICU team found the sweating and pale child at the Armon Hanatziv clinic of Kupat Holim Clalit was having serious respiratory difficulties. During treatment, his condition deteriorated and he stopped breathing. The MICU team performed a tracheotomy and artificial respiration.

He was taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital's intensive care unit in serious but stable condition. Yesterday he was disconnected from a respirator and feeling much better. Judy Siegel

# LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

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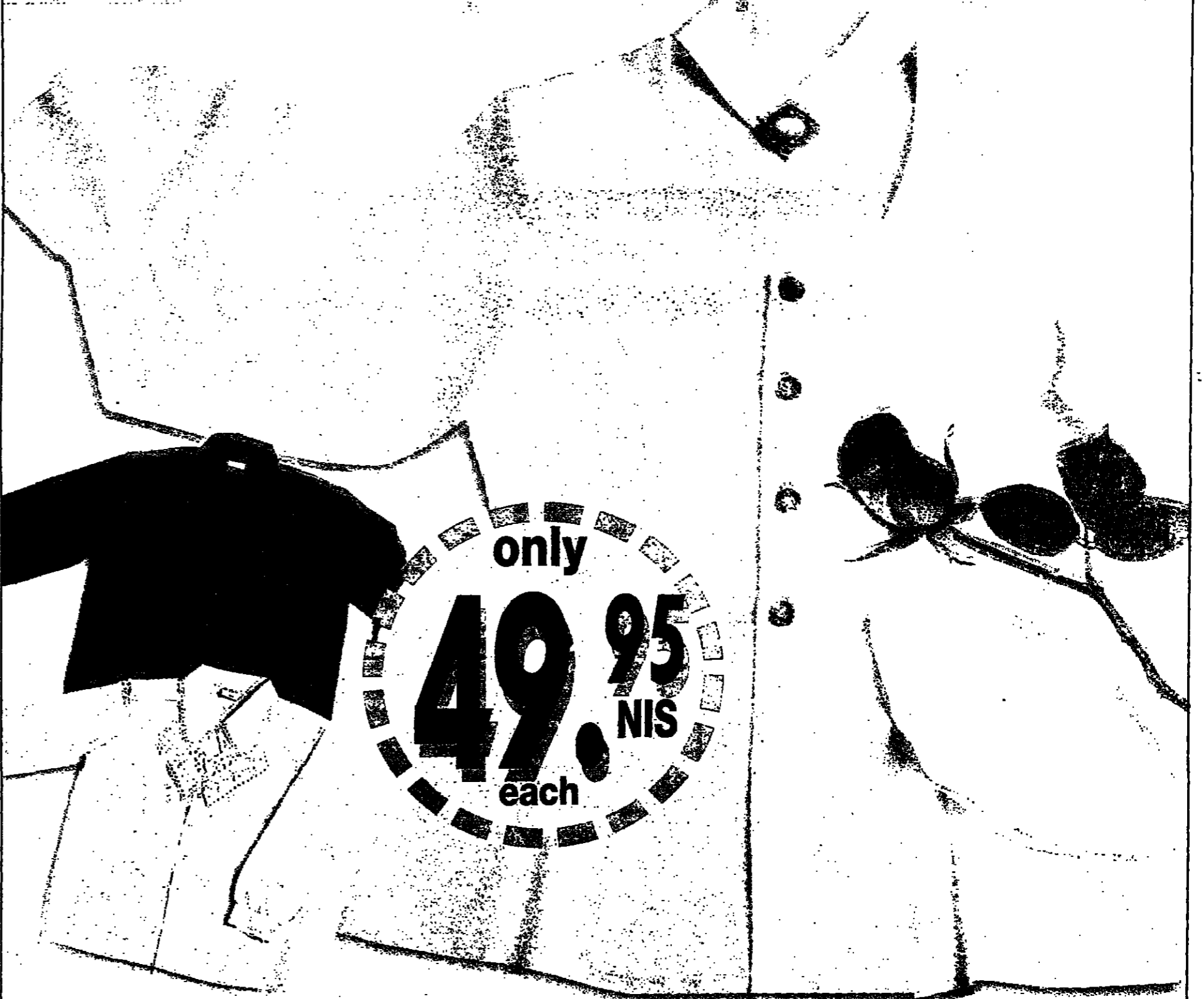


Col. Meir Blair, the Chairman of the Libi Fund, presenting a certificate of appreciation to a representative of U.M.I., Mr. Yaron Gertler.

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# IRA claims Lisburn attack, raises fear of retaliation

THE IRA claimed responsibility yesterday for the bombing of Britain's army nerve center in Northern Ireland, plunging the province into its darkest period for years.

A caller using a recognized codeword told the Dublin newsroom of Irish broadcaster RTE that its units had carried out the most serious attack in Northern Ireland since the IRA called a truce in August 1994.

It was the first time the IRA had struck in Northern Ireland itself since it ended its truce in February this year by attacking targets on the British mainland and an army base in Germany.

The claim of responsibility brought back echoes of the worst days of Northern Ireland's 27-year political and sectarian troubles when near-daily violence killed 3,200 and turned the province into a British fortress.

The IRA admission increased fears among ordinary Catholics of revenge attacks by Protestant Loyalist gunmen who have stuck by their own two-year-old cease-fire to earn their political spokesmen a place at Belfast peace talks.

ANDREW HILL  
BELFAST

Spokesmen for the Loyalists' political wings appealed all day to their military allies not to resort to revenge attacks of the sort which killed 900 Catholics before the truce was called.

The Loyalists' umbrella organization, the Combined Loyalist Military Command, was reported by Northern Ireland media to have met yesterday to study its next step but made no statement.

The IRA admission ended a day of guesswork as to which Irish Republican group might have carried out the attack in which two car bombs exploded inside the Lisburn base.

The caller told RTE that its units attacked the base, the headquarters for Britain's 18,000-strong army operation in Northern Ireland, to strike at army personnel.

The caller said the IRA regretted injuries to

civilian personnel - a total of 31 people were hurt, 20 of them soldiers and the remainder civilians working at the base.

Army chiefs began an immediate review of security at their Lisburn headquarters to determine how anyone could get past a security cordon with explosives concealed in their vehicles.

The IRA resumed its war against what it sees as illegal British occupation of Northern Ireland because of British and Irish insistence that the guerrillas start to disarm as part of peace talks under way in Belfast.

Its political wing, Sinn Féin, is barred from the talks as punishment for the ending of the IRA truce but says it should be there by virtue of its electoral mandate, drawn from Catholic Irish nationalists.

The IRA has said it will not discuss any arms handover until there is an agreed political settlement between Irish nationalists and the 60 percent pro-British Protestant majority.

## Poland approves care plan for Auschwitz

WARSAW (Reuters) - Poland's government approved a costly long-term plan yesterday to better manage the site and surroundings of Auschwitz.

Cabinet chief-of-staff Leszek Miller told a news conference the scheme aimed at "ensuring fitting reverence for the place of the mass extermination of Jews and the martyrdom of the Polish and other nations."

The government began drafting the plan earlier this year following an international row over efforts by a local developer in the southern town of Oswiecim to open a shopping center opposite the main gate of the former camp, now a museum.

Jewish and other critics said the shop project was highly inappropriate so close to the major site of the wartime Holocaust - especially as the scattered ashes of the dead mean the twin Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps remain a vast cemetery.

Building permission has been withdrawn from the developer who has said he plans to seek compensation or sell the site to the authorities for use in providing catering and other services which could then be moved out of the museum itself.

Miller said a first stage of the scheme from next year until 2001, would cost almost 56 million zlotys (\$20.7 million), 37 million (\$13.7 million) of which would be for tidying and administering a protected zone around the site.

The remaining 18 million (\$6.6 million) will go to modernization of transportation facilities in Oswiecim, partly to remove public routes passing close to the former camp.

## American, Briton share Nobel economics prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) - A retired Columbia University professor and a British political economist won the Nobel economics prize yesterday for explaining how information - or lack of it - shapes business decisions.

William Vickrey, an 82-year-old naturalized American, and James Mirrlees of Cambridge University shared the \$1.12 million prize for groundbreaking studies in an area of economics called "asymmetric information."

Asymmetric information refers to when both sides don't have the same facts. The buyer of a house or a used car, for example, doesn't have all the information the seller

has. Without the same facts, the seller has an advantage over the buyer, who must spend time and money to learn more.

Although their separate studies focused on relatively specific areas such as auctions and subway fares, their work has led to better understanding of economic activity ranging from insurance and credit markets to tax systems, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

"This is a very important contribution," said prize committee member Karl-Gustaf Lofgren. "These men set up the formal methodology... which has been put into textbooks of microeconomic

theory as a standard fact. It's not very often that you get new chapters into textbooks."

"It's very gratifying... very warming," Vickrey, a native of British Columbia, said of the award when contacted at his home in Hastings-on-Hudson, north of New York City. "I had heard rumors that my name was there, but I figured it was less than a 50-50 chance."

The annual prize is the third of the six Nobels to be awarded this year. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics is awarded by the Swedish Central Bank in Alfred Nobel's honor instead of the Nobel Foundation.

## Gore-Kemp debate may give glimpse of 2000 campaign

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Vice President Al Gore and Republican Jack Kemp square off in a debate tonight that has political junkies aflutter at the thought that these two may compete for the presidency in the year 2000.

Vice presidential debates have had little impact on presidential elections and tonight's 90-minute encounter in St. Petersburg, Florida, is expected to be no exception.

Still, the stakes are unusually high since both Gore and Kemp are seen as strong early bets for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations for the

next election.

"It is very unusual for a debate to showcase the two possible nominees of four years down the road, but both Gore and Kemp are undoubtedly the early frontrunners," said Allan Lichtman, a political scientist at American University in Washington.

That makes the debate possibly of more interest to political analysts, pundits and journalists than to the electorate, who are focusing on the contest between President Bill Clinton and Republican Bob Dole.

Those two meet in the final presidential debate next week in

San Diego. The election is November 5 and Clinton remains ahead in the opinion polls.

Even in Florida, the vice presidential contest is only getting big media play in the Tampa-St. Petersburg metropolitan area, said Robert Joffe, a Florida public opinion expert with the Mason-Dixon polling company.

"The vice presidential debate has no significance at all for the presidential election. On the other hand, every political junkie in America, justifiably, will be watching this with a great deal of interest for 2000," said Joffe.

of approximately 900 likely voters had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

Daily tracking polls can show sharp fluctuations due to the relatively small sample of voters polled each day. Their value lies in tracking trend over a period of several days.

Dole's best day was Monday, the day after his first presidential debate with Clinton in Hartford, Connecticut. "Factored in with two good days over the weekend, we are now seeing a tight race," Zogby said.

Zogby said that as recently as last week, Dole had been receiving at most 64 percent of Republicans' support. Starting on Saturday, that climbed to the 70 percent range, and by Monday it was 78 percent.

## Poll: Dole cuts gap to 5.3 points behind Clinton

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Bob Dole jumped to about five percentage points behind President Bill Clinton in the latest Reuters tracking poll, as Republican voters continued "coming home" to their party's candidate.

The poll, conducted for Reuters by John Zogby Group International, produced the best results for Dole in a Reuters survey since its polling began in August.

It showed Clinton at 43.8 percent, Dole at 38.5 percent for a gap of just 5.3 percentage points. Reform Party candidate Ross Perot was at 4.5 percent, 1.9 percent supported other candidates

and 11.3 percent were undecided.

"For the first time we have Dole climbing out of the mid-30s. We're getting closer to the election. People are starting to focus, and the Republicans are saying, 'Where do I go?' " pollster John Zogby said in explaining the results.

"Whereas they [the Republicans] were not enthusiastic about Dole, they are coming back to Dole," Zogby said.

The poll was a rolling three-day average of results from about 300 interviews a day, Saturday through Monday. The Reuters/Zogby poll

of approximately 900 likely voters had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

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### DISPY VIDEO SCANDAL

She's filmed in bra and pants romp with Hewitt

The front page of yesterday's edition of the British tabloid 'The Sun,' featuring the pictures and story about Princess Diana. (AP)

## 'The Sun' admits Diana video was fake

LONDON (Reuters) - A British newspaper said yesterday that video film which it had alleged showed a scantily clad Princess Diana frolicking with her former lover James Hewitt was in fact "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade."

The Sun, a top-selling tabloid, said in a statement released to the media that it had been "conned by cunning fraudsters" and apologized for any offense it had caused to the princess or Hewitt.

"Today The Sun is in the unhappy position of putting its hands up to falling victim to one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade."

"We were conned by cunning fraudsters into believing that a poor quality film of two people frolicking together were the Princess of Wales and her former lover James Hewitt," the statement said.

The Sun said the 80-second film had been offered to the editor last week during a clandestine meeting with two men who acted as intermediaries.

"We made our best endeavors to corroborate the contents of the

film with independent witnesses confirming the apparent identity of the princess and Mr. Hewitt," the statement added.

"We also hired the services of surveillance experts to assess and give their verdicts on the original source of the film."

Editor Stuart Higgins said he took full responsibility for the error and would apologize to the 35-year-old princess and Hewitt in writing.

In a front-page story yesterday, the newspaper said the grainy black and white film, which was also shown on some British television stations, had confirmed Diana's fears that she had been spied on during the demise of her 15-year marriage to Prince Charles.

Through her spokeswoman, Diana said she did not recognize either herself or Hewitt in the photographs published in the newspaper.

The pictures showed a woman stripping down to gym shorts and sports bra while a man watched. She was also shown riding on his back and playfully throwing pillows at him.

## Pope's appendix removed; No sign of tumor's return

ROME (AP) - Surgeons removed Pope John Paul II's troublesome appendix yesterday in surgery they said showed no signs a bowel tumor had returned. But doctors sidestepped questions about the pontiff's other health problems, including a marked hand tremor.

While medical team members indicated the 76-year-old pope came through with flying colors, including quickly regaining consciousness after general anesthesia, they also reminded the public that no surgery can undo the ravages of age.

John Paul's vital signs held up well during surgery, said a medical bulletin issued at Gemelli Polyclinic hospital. "He should be sitting in an armchair tomorrow [today]," said Dr. Corrado Mami, chief anesthesiologist for the 50-minute surgery.

"The appendix that was the cause of the pope's ills doesn't exist any more," said Mami.

The appendectomy was aimed at curing what the Vatican said was recurring bouts of inflammation and fever which caused John Paul to cancel some public engagements this year. Frequently the pope's energy flags and he walks at times with difficulty.

The image of a slowed-down pope had generated concern by some observers that a bowel tumor, removed in 1992 and described as benign, returned.

"This is the moment to demythologize these fantasies," said the chief surgeon, Dr. Francesco Crucitti. Asked at a news conference if opening up the pope's abdomen showed any sign the tumor was back, the surgeon replied: "I exclude it categorically. There is no secret."

Crucitti operated on the pope in 1992 for the tumor and in 1981 after a Turkish gunman shot the pontiff in the abdomen.

But even as doctors were calling the appendectomy successful, they sidestepped questions about the possibility of Parkinson's, a progressive neurological disorder marked by tremors and shuffling gait.

Crucitti would only say that the pope is under the care of "other specialists" for other ailments.

Yesterday's surgery was the sixth for the pope in the 13 years of his papacy. Two years ago he had hip surgery after he fell in his bathroom and in 1993 he dislocated a shoulder in another fall.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- 7 killed in Mogadishu fighting**  
MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) - At least seven people were killed and more than 20 wounded in fighting that apparently erupted as faction leader Hussein Aidid was leaving to meet with two rival leaders yesterday to discuss possible reconciliation.
- Foreign aid workers and Somalis close to Aidid said Hussein Aidid fled to Nairobi, Kenya yesterday.
- Details of his mission were not immediately clear, and no Kenyan officials were available for comment, but officials close to Ali Mahdi Mohammed, Hussein's rival from north Mogadishu, said he left for Nairobi too.
- The two Somali leaders may be joined tomorrow by Osman Hassan Ali, known as Atto, in a possible bid at reconciliation mediated by Kenya, sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said.
- Bosnian Serb charged with genocide**  
BONN (AP) - A Bosnian Serb arrested in Germany has been charged with genocide for allegedly murdering Moslems - including three women and a child - during the Bosnian war, federal authorities announced yesterday.
- The man is accused of killing one of his 25 murder victims by putting a bucket over his head and hitting it with a large plank, said the Federal Prosecutor's Office in Karlsruhe.
- The suspect, identified only as 49-year-old Nikola J., was arrested on December 17 in Duesseldorf. He was the second Bosnian Serb to have been arrested in Germany on charges related to ethnic cleansing during Bosnia's civil war. The first, Dusan Tadic, is on trial at the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Masood hits Afghan Taleban**  
KABUL (Reuters) - Afghanistan's ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum met yesterday to explore forming a common front, as forces loyal to Rabbani's military chief Ahmad Shah Masood counterattacked Taleban forces.
- Taleban fighters said Commander Basir Solangi, Masood's commander who withdrew north into territory controlled by Dostum in the Salang Pass and over the mountainsides.
- The Taleban fighters said Dostum's men were not involved in the fighting, in which the two sides exchanged artillery, mortar and small arms fire throughout the day.
- The meeting between Rabbani and Dostum in Dostum's stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif was the first in three years.
- 2nd Jewish cemetery in Cologne desecrated**  
COLOGNE, Germany (Reuters) - A Jewish cemetery was desecrated by knocking down tombstones and spraying them with swastikas in the second attack this month on Jewish graves in Cologne, German police said yesterday.
- Ten tombstones were knocked over and four were sprayed with blue swastikas, a banned symbol in Germany. The attack probably took place last week, a police spokesman said.
- On Monday, police said another Jewish cemetery in Cologne had been desecrated by unknown assailants who knocked over five tombstones and sprayed fifteen with swastikas and the Star of David. It was not clear when in a series of attacks on Jewish cemeteries and monuments since German unification in 1990.

אלהא מן אלאל

# Violence hasn't ruined interest in Mideast investment

SALLY JACOBSEN

DESPITE the latest outbreak of violence in the Middle East, it seems to be business as usual for American companies and officials high on economic prospects in the region.

Indeed, Stuart Eizenstat, a senior US trade official, used a recent New York conference on Mideast investment to try to drum up more money for the region as a way of promoting peace and stability.

"You're here to make a buck and we want you to do so," said Eizenstat, the Commerce Department's undersecretary for international trade. "But I would suggest to you that you can both turn a profit and ... help strengthen the peace process itself by providing jobs and economic opportunities."

The conference, drawing together American ambassadors from countries in the region with US business executives, was held against the backdrop of the Israeli-Palestinian flareup and Iraq's military moves. Ambassadors to Egypt, Israel and Jordan had been scheduled to attend, but remained at their posts because of the tensions, conference organizers said.

Wyche Fowler, the ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Ryan Crocker, the envoy to Kuwait, said that despite recent troubles, businesses remained committed to the area. "American companies are going to be there for the long run," said Eizenstat. "They are not going to react to the headline of the day."

Corporate participants in the conference included some of the leading American petroleum companies, such as Exxon Corp. and ARCO, as well as other US multinationals ranging from Philip Morris Co. to Pfizer Inc.

Norman Byers, whose Telos International Corp. operates in five Middle Eastern countries, including Israel and Kuwait, appeared to take the political ups and downs in stride. "In any region of the world you go into, there's a risk," said Byers, president of the information technology company in Ashburn, Virginia. "Nothing is cookie-cutter [standard] when you're outside the United States."

The "degree of comfort" of a

business in turbulent areas, he said, depends partly on having a company's own people on the ground to monitor events and having executives with wide international experience.

Speakers told the delegates that opportunities were robust for a variety of products, ranging from military and industrial goods to cars, air conditioners and processed foods. "Countries in the Middle East remain hungry for American technology," said Byers.

Eizenstat used his speech to push for economic and financial support for the peace process. The lack of economic development in the Palestinian areas, he said, was hampering the peace drive. After a recent visit to the region, he said he felt there was a "pressure-cooker atmosphere."

The confrontations of recent days, he said, should serve as a "wake-up call" for promotion of trade and investment in the areas. "You really cannot have a genuine, lasting, durable peace unless you have that translated into something that appears to make life better," Eizenstat said.

He emphasized the benefits that would come from proposals for an Israeli-Egyptian natural-gas pipeline, an oil refinery in Alexandria, and creation of special industrial zones to encourage investment in the Palestinian areas.

Congress, he said, was near completion of work on a Gaza-West Bank free-trade agreement. Such an accord, he said, would eliminate tariffs, quotas and other restrictions on products entering the US from those areas. Some goods would be textiles, strawberries and cut flowers. Washington has a similar deal with Israel.

The conference was sponsored jointly by the Departments of State and Commerce and the New York-based Business Council for International Understanding.

Organizers said 112 businesses and firms registered for the one-day meeting. The ambassadors and other speakers will travel to Dallas for a similar symposium today and on to Los Angeles on Friday. (News agency)

THE current crisis between the Palestinian Authority and Israel about the Hasmonaean Tunnel and redeployment in Hebron gave PA chairman Yasser Arafat high prestige among the Palestinians.

This dramatic change in his position, especially regarding the West Bank (which has been at its lowest ebb since the establishment of the PA) is double-edged: He can now accept unpopular decisions, and implement them better. However, he has gained this new popularity through bloody confrontation with Israel. He may be tempted now to resume tensions when faced with internal problems.

Despite his effective performance in the current crisis, his troubles with the Palestinians are

far from over. An example of this can be found in an interview published last weekend in Amman, with a famous Palestinian scholar, Professor Hisham Sharabi.

In the *A-Dustour Daily* interview, he spoke of the necessity to "break down the Palestinian patriarchal regime, in order to cause similar regimes in the Arab world to break down."

Prof. Sharabi does not represent the traditional opposition to Arafat among the old radical PLO groups.

On the contrary, he represents the main stream of the Palestinian intelligentsia, a former member of the PNC in the pro-Arafat group, and a cornerstone in the Arab and Palestinian lobby in the US.

Sharabi has a gloomy view of

### ANALYSIS PINHAS INBARI

the overall Arab situation, and on the Palestinians in particular.

He is afraid that the Arab world is deteriorating into an "African situation" in which "poor people are massacring each other."

As for the Palestinian people, their situation has deteriorated even further, due to historical disasters that ended in the occupation of 1967.

Sharabi visited Israel and the PA, and came to the conclusion that while Israel is now entering the 21st century, the Palestinians have become street cleaners in the Israeli cities.

But what does this have to do with Arafat?

Sharabi does not appear to be swept away in admiration of Arafat's latest achievements.

On the contrary, the generation that led the Palestinians in subsequent failures is still "sitting on the people, on the new generation, imposing on it its despair, frustration, and its anarchy in behavior and way of thinking." In other words, in the struggle between the territories and the PLO, Sharabi is supporting the "inside Palestinians."

He becomes even more definite on this issue when he states that "the younger generation in Palestine does not want any PLO to order them to make revolutions."

Contrary to use of force and to the PA's military mentality, Sharabi believes in a non-violent

struggle against the occupation and that only democracy can rescue the Palestinians from their present plight.

This may be interpreted as another criticism of Arafat typical of upper-class Palestinians, but Sharabi speaks of convening a popular congress of the Palestinians of the outside, which will toss a "life belt" to the Palestinians of the inside.

It is important to stress that Sharabi says nothing bad about Arafat personally, and the congress he mentions does not necessarily imply that it would become an anti-Arafat demonstration.

Most of the Palestinians, including reformists, regard Arafat as an essential ingredient for Palestinian unity.

# Another look at Arafat

## Taleban forces women into strict Islamist mold

ALISTAIR LYON

PEERING at the world through a blue cloth mesh is a new experience for educated Kabul women, but few venture out without wrapping themselves in a *burqa* - a flowing head-to-toe robe that masks the face - for fear of offending their new rulers' concept of Islamic dress.

The Sunni Moslem Taleban movement that captured the Afghan capital at the end of last month has yet to rule on whether women must veil their faces or simply cover their hair to be suitably attired.

"There are different opinions," Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Sher Mohammed Stanakzai told reporters this week. "This question has been handed over to the religious *ulema* [scholars] and will then go to the high court."

Women who once strolled Kabul streets in bright dresses or jeans, with a loose headscarf their only concession to Moslem modesty, now risk abuse or even a public beating from young, black-turbaned Taleban warriors moving around the city in pickup trucks if they fail to cover up completely.

"We will try our best to execute all the rules and regulations of Islam," said Stanakzai. "We love our country and our people, and we also love Islam."

The Taleban moved swiftly to stamp its puritan interpretation of Islam on Kabul as it has done in other areas under its control, ordering men to grow beards and pray five times daily, banning television, cinema and music, and decreeing that the sexes should be segregated outside the home.

As a result, schools and colleges in Kabul, where 70 percent of teachers are women, have yet to reopen almost two weeks after the Taleban takeover.

Female government employees have been told to stay at home, with a promise that they will be kept on full pay until Taleban leaders figure out how they can return to work without coming into contact with men.

The edict has hit hardest at Kabul's estimated 25,000 war widows, many of whom were employed in government jobs or involved in food-for-work programs run by relief agencies. They are now left with virtually no means of support for themselves or their children short of begging on the streets.

The Taleban says female doctors and nurses may resume their posts, but only if they wear *burqas* and do not work alongside male colleagues. They say they will not deny education to girls



Afghan women wearing burqas, or Islamic veils, follow a man along a Kabul street after the Moslem hardline Taleban Islamic militia imposed strict modesty orders, forbidding women to work or study in the same offices or schools as men. (Reuters)

## Moslem fundamentalists lose support in Kuwaiti elections

MOSLEM fundamentalists have slipped from 19 to 17 seats in Kuwait's 50-member parliament and may no longer be the largest single bloc when the new legislature convenes, according to unofficial election returns yesterday.

Pro-government candidates, who held 15 seats in the outgoing National Assembly, appeared to have gained ground, though it was not immediately clear if they would overtake the fundamentalists. As results of Monday's election came in, Kuwaitis closely watched the outcome of both races although the main election issues were perceived renewed threats by Iraq and economic reforms to streamline government spending.

The exact breakdown of parliament will be difficult to determine until the legislature begins meeting and discussing issues.

Political parties are banned and almost all the 230 candidates ran as independents in Monday's elections. A handful represented officially recognized "political movements" ranging in ideology from liberal to pan-Arab to Moslem fundamentalist.

Controversial Iran-educated Shi'ite Moslem scholar Hussein Qalaf and international financier Jassim al-Kharafi both secured parliament seats in Kuwait's second election since the 1991 Gulf War.

Qalaf was educated in the Iranian holy city of Qom and traces his family tree to the Prophet Mohammad. In his last campaign speech on Sunday night, Qalaf, 38, steered away from many controversial questions but he was firm in his criticism of Israel: "All Moslems have hatred for Jews in their hearts and fight Jews, it is not a matter of Shi'ites and Sunnis," he said.

His candidacy raised fears of a revival of differences between Kuwait's Sunni majority and Shi'ites who number about 25 percent of the 700,000 Kuwaitis. "Sunni Kuwaitis don't want to see a turbaned Shi'ite scholar entering the assembly," one analyst earlier said.

While Kuwait prides itself on having an elected legislature, it is often described as the rule by a "chosen few" because of the restrictions on voting. Only 107,000 males of Kuwait's 700,000 citizens are allowed to vote. Women are not allowed to vote and men can cast ballots only if they can trace their Kuwaiti ancestry back to the 1920s, or have been naturalized citizens for more than 20 years.

A small group of educated women demonstrated in front of polling stations Monday to demand voting rights before elections in the year 2000. (News agencies)

## Egyptian police shoot unidentified beasts

EGYPTIAN police have shot two specimens of the unidentified wild animals terrorizing people in the southern town of Armat for more than a month, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

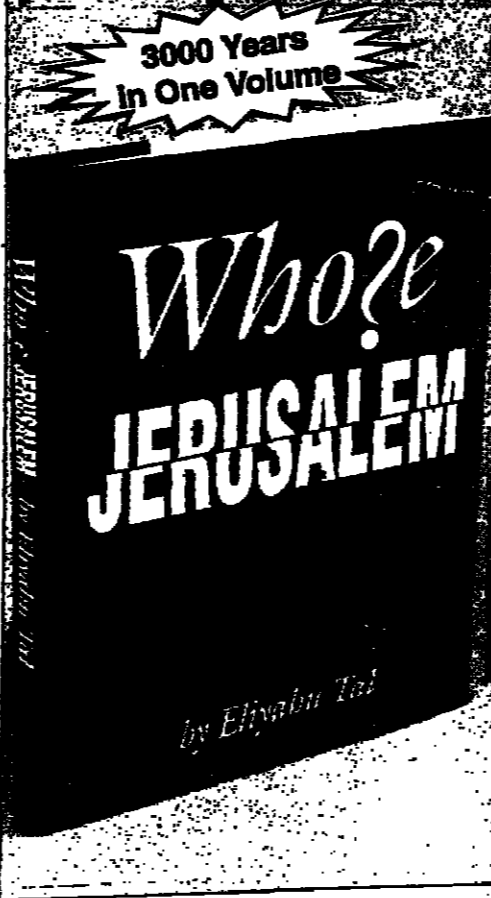
The animals, which bear some resemblance to large hyenas or wild dogs, have killed three people and injured dozens in a series of nocturnal attacks around Armat, in the Nile valley 500 km south of Cairo. Local people call them *salawwa*, the colloquial word for a female ghoul, but no one has yet identified the species.

One theory is that they have recently migrated north from Sudan in search of food.

The ministry said the police and local people with gun licenses had set up ambushes around the town at night in the hope of killing or capturing the animals. One group shot the wounded and captured one of the animals as it was coming out of farmland to attack people's houses, it said. Another group had shot one of them dead, it added.

The wounded animal has been sent to the veterinary unit in Armat for examination, it said. (Reuters)

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Jerusalem Post  
Pope's appendix removed; no sign of humor's return

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## Proper opposition

THE words of Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein in Monday's opening Knesset session are worth listening to even if the debate itself, particularly the sickening, self-serving opposition antics, made it a plenum discussion best forgotten and put behind us.

"We mourn," said Rubinstein, "the 15 of our soldiers and officers... who fell and were killed by Palestinian police. And we lament the death of tens of Palestinians who were killed in the rioting... It is true: the government bears complete responsibility for halting the peace process, for raising the tension in the territories, for opening the tunnel. But we do not blur at all the seriousness of the act of opening fire by Palestinian police against our soldiers - who were exposed to this fire, which fell on them when they were not prepared, when they could not anticipate that those who yesterday patrolled with them together, would shoot them in order to kill."

"This is an action which cannot be forgiven and for which there is no absolution and no justification. We tell the Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority: We are with you in your struggle for peace, we are against you if you do not stop the fire. Those who shoot, shoot the peace. A Palestinian policeman who does not lock his gun kills not only our comrades and men, our sons and friends, but also the chance to put an end to the enmity between the peoples."

At the Washington summit and now at the Erez talks, Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans are trying to put Humpty back together again. It seems that the outlines of a deal are in place. Israel is committed to withdrawing from Hebron and fulfilling other outstanding Oslo commitments. The Palestinians are willing to make adjustments in security arrangements to help prevent a recurrence of the week of bloodshed.

Still, the peace process has been shaken to its foundations. The deal shaping up, as important as it is, amounts more to patching up the plaster than to repairing the structural damage. While time has a way of healing such wounds, it is now hard to imagine how Israeli soldiers will ever again be able to patrol together with a Palestinian force that shot them down, in some cases sniper-style.

Every Israeli government has rejected out of hand the prospect of a hostile military force between the Jordan River and the sea. The question now is whether the Palestinian force that was to be Israel's protection against Hamas has become an army that at any time can be directed against Israel. A sterile debate currently rages as to whether arming the Palestinians was

a terrible mistake or a vital Israeli interest. For better or worse, there is no going back. Yet there is a hope that, while Yasser Arafat's ability to play the violence card still exists, the political viability of his doing so can be greatly reduced.

Thus it is essential that statements, such as the above by former education minister Rubinstein, become the rule rather than the exception.

At long last, a strong proponent of Oslo has made a heartfelt statement of anger and betrayal, thus handing the Palestinians their share of responsibility for the grievous step they have taken and for the future of the peace process.

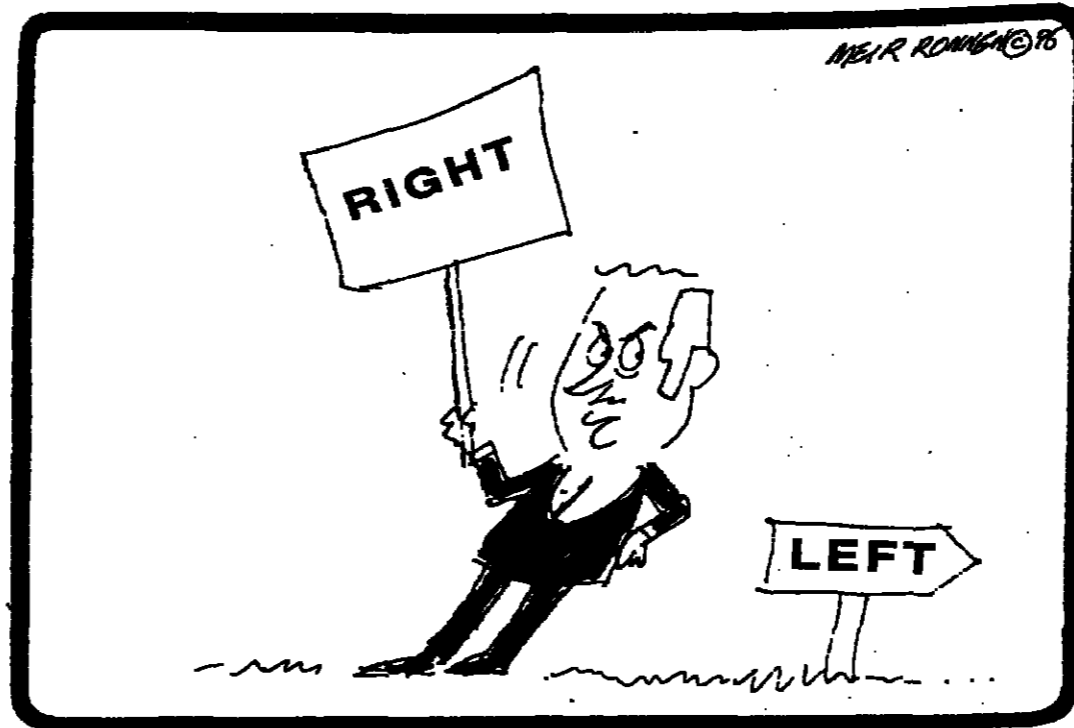
Where was a similar statement by Shimon Peres in his Knesset tirade against the government? Sure, he and others have made statements saying that Palestinian police firing at Israelis is unacceptable. But where is the indignation, the sense that whatever one's criticisms of the Israeli government, Palestinians can and should be held responsible for their actions?

Since the week of violence, Arafat has won a summit in Washington, a two-handed prime ministerial handshake, an accelerated negotiation for withdrawal from Hebron, and yesterday's historic meeting with President Ezer Weizman. While the Netanyahu government had little choice but to take such steps in order to dig itself out of the diplomatic hole it found itself in, the total effect hardly acts as a deterrent against future Palestinian violence.

Most would agree with Weizman's admonition to Arafat that if there is a recurrence of Palestinian police fire on Israelis the peace process is doomed. Yet it is not enough for the government and the president to be saying this - Oslo's chief proponents must send a ringing message to the Palestinians: You shoot, and we will blame you for killing the peace.

If Arafat feels that he can incite violence with the flimsiest of excuses and can count on the world coming down on Israel's head, why should he not do it? But if Arafat senses that violence will instead boomerang against him, he will do his best to prevent it.

For the peace process to be saved, both the government and its opponents have a part to play. The Netanyahu government seems to be trying to resolve issues and, despite the violence, jumping with both feet into the Oslo framework. The opposition has a choice. It can either try to maximize the damage to the government by absolving the Palestinians of their violations of Oslo, or they can do as Amnon Rubinstein did - slam the government without letting the Palestinians off the hook. It is not too late for those who really care about peace, rather than just scoring points, to speak out.



## Peres's march of folly

YECHIEL LEITER

NO experience of the failure of his policy could shake his belief in its essential excellence. That was written about Philip II of Spain (Barbara Tuchman's *The March of Folly*) but will benefit historians writing about Shimon Peres as well.

After 15 Israeli soldiers were gunned down and 61 injured by Palestinian policemen using guns provided by Israel, the man who fathered Oslo still has no regrets. Not even any doubts.

With his customarily defiant air of fanatic certainty, Peres is now going on the offensive explaining that there was nothing wrong with Oslo, and only Netanyahu is to blame for not implementing it fast enough. Rather than an admission of possible error or even just silent reflection, Peres offers an apologetic defense of Oslo.

Guns don't kill, people do, says Peres, and that is undoubtedly true. This is precisely the reason why certain people should not be given guns. The anti-Oslo campaign, "Don't Give Them Guns" said just that. As long as the guns are in Israel's hands they will not kill Israelis, but in the hands of the PLO they will. Until September 25, 1996 that was conjecture. Since then, existential fact.

There is more here than just Israel's leading liberal using a slogan of America's ultra-conservative National Rifle Association. That would just be amusing. There has been rather a total collapse of the political strategy upon which Oslo was predicated, which in turn has led to tragic loss of life. And that is sad. What makes it criminal is that it could have been prevented had Peres and his Oslo architects been a bit less certain and a lot more cautious.

Oslo was based on the assumption that Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat and the PLO had undergone a metamorphosis. They had jettisoned violence as a means of achieving their goal, which was no longer the destruction of Israel. That then was the rationale for giving them guns: To fight those among them who had

not yet mended their ways.

When the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin responded to the "Don't Give Them Guns" campaign, he said that if the guns were turned against Israelis it would be the end of Oslo and Israel would be free to march back into the autonomous areas using all the fire power at its disposal. He acknowledged that the

Those who  
opposed Oslo  
were right

strategic assessment he was making regarding the PLO was a dangerous risk but one, in his opinion, that Israel had to take.

His successor had and continues to have no such doubts. Arafat's use of weapons against Israelis when he felt the time was right means that his departure from terror was tactical, conditional and temporary. Not strategic. His refusal to use the same guns against Hamas, which is what they were intended for, means the same. It means that his frequent diatribes against Israel's existence and his sanctification of bus bombers are not accidental or tangential but intrinsic elements of his overall strategy, indicative of the fact that even if the PLO Charter has been technically changed, its spirit has not.

ALL THIS means that Shimon Peres was wrong, that Oslo was wrong, that taking the calculated risk was wrong. And those who opposed Oslo were right. The PLO remains an organization of people who use guns to kill people and not of people who use guns to protect them.

Peres's defenders of course point to the clause in the Camp David Accords which calls for a "strong police force" to justify his arming the PLO. In other words, Menachem Begin, not Shimon

Peres is to blame for the events of late September. But Camp David says nothing of the PLO being the "strong police force." Nor does it define "strong" as quantitatively larger than Israel's entire infantry as it indeed is today, or that the entire force would be armed with sub-machine guns.

Most importantly, when it comes to security nowhere in Camp David is the Palestinian police force given supremacy over the IDF in any part of the country.

The cataclysm that Arafat orchestrated was a disaster in the making ever since Oslo began. The violence did indeed erupt because the Hasmonean Tunnel was opened, and because Netanyahu was delaying the Oslo process. Not that there were not delays when Israel's previous government reigned as well. But then Arafat knew that with a little patience he would get what he wanted. There were dark spots, but there was still light, PLO statehood in all of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, at the end of the tunnel.

With the opening of the tunnel, the realization set in among the Palestinians that the people of Israel had voted against Shimon Peres who had left the Jewish tunnel closed in order to keep the Palestinian political tunnel open. Once it became clear that those who had been right all along about Arafat were in power, and that the delays in Oslo's implementation were not just formalistic hurdles but substantive demarcation lines, Arafat unleashed Palestinian terror.

If the Washington summit results in any political gain for Arafat at Erez he will have once again achieved his objectives through violence. Terror will have once again paid off and a strong incentive for future violence will be the consequence. Netanyahu will not let that happen.

The writer is executive director of the foreign desk of the Yeshiva Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE LOSS OF A CHILD

Sir, - The loss of a child is not always accompanied by "suddenly seeing about 90 percent of the friends one thought one had vanish into thin air" as Susan Hattis Rofel sadly writes in her article, "How people deal with pain" (September 24). Earlier this month my six-year-old nephew was run over by a school bus from which he had just alighted. Tired and a bit disoriented at the end of a hot summer's day, still new to Tzur Hadassah (as was the bus driver), with no sidewalk at his disposal, he chose not to tread on a bed of flowers and stood precariously on one of the suburb's slanted curbs. He lost his balance and was crushed under the rear wheels of the departing bus.

At such a time one expects relatives and friends to rally round, and they did. What the family did not expect were the streams of neighbors who came to the house bearing equal quantities of food and solace, neighbors who, in fact, continue to come.

Friends, by definition, do not disappear in these moments. Nevertheless, Rofel is right when she observes that certain people, confronted with so great and specific a loss, sometimes respond inappropriately. My brother and sister-in-law, in this regard at least, have

been fortunate. They are not objects of awe, nor have they been treated like cripples. No one sees them as abnormal. No one is afraid of catching their grief (as if it were a cold) - although Israel's buses, streets and roads are not safe places for children, and, from that standpoint, we are all vulnerable.

I know nothing of Rofel's personal history. I can only infer, from what she wrote, that she has had to bury a child. If this is indeed the case, and she did not obtain love and support from people she counted on, I am sorry beyond words. I am sorry, too, for my mother and father-in-law, who, like the famous dancer, Dvora Bertinov, lost sons to suicide. Rofel is correct again when she asserts, "People feel embarrassed because they simply don't know what to say [after a child dies]." It seems odd, if one considers how frequently Jews have been called upon to bury their offspring, that anyone should feel this way. It ought to be clear by now that nobody has to say anything. There is no right thing to say, no proper answer to the question, "Why was my child taken?" All that friends can do is listen and be there for the grieving parents. To be there is enough.

BARBARA GRANCELL-FRANK  
Tzur Hadassah.

### US ELECTIONS

Sir, - We wish to advise American citizens who have registered and requested an absentee ballot from their local election boards in the US that, if their absentee ballot has not reached them by October 15, there is a back-up system so no one will be disenfranchised. Federally printed absentee write-in ballots will be available at all US Consulates, the five AACC regional offices, the offices of Democrats and Republicans Abroad as well as from this writer. These ballots may be handed out only to those who had earlier filled out an FPACA card and requested a locally printed absentee ballot from their board of election in the US.

All states but New York require that all absentee ballots be received by election boards no later than election day to be valid and counted. New York allows a 10-day grace period, provided that the absentee ballot has a postmark no later than one day before election day.

US voters residing in or near urban centers must secure these federally printed write-in ballots from either their nearest US Consulate or one of the AACC regional offices. Those who live in remote, isolated communities and cannot reach these offices may request write-in ballots between October 15-25 from the undersigned, P.O.B. 1258, Rehovot, 76112, by stating that they have made a request for a locally printed absentee ballot from their board but have not received it. Send this statement together with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and please enclose your telephone number.

Transmittal of all ballots - both locally and federally printed - may be sent via regular mail, or the diplomatic pouch cost free, by going to one of the three US Consulates. For the first time this year, the following states will accept voted ballots by fax: AL, AK, D.C., HI, IN, IA, KS, LA, ME, MS, MT, NH, NJ, NM, ND, RI, SC, UT, and WA. If mailing ballots, allow at least seven days for delivery. For further information call (08) 945-7671, Sunday to Thursday between noon and 8 p.m.

DAVID FROELICH,  
US Voting Coordinator  
Rehovot.

### WORST FEARS REALIZED

Sir, - The worst fears of those of us who thought Netanyahu would be a disaster as a prime minister are being realized. The last paragraph of your editorial of September 26, "An unsuccessful opening," explains the situation clearly.

If, as Netanyahu now claims, opening the tunnel was "harmless," why was it done in the dead of night, with complete secrecy and with a heavily guarded demolition crew?

As expected, he now blames everybody but himself. But he is responsible for the tension which has been building up among the Palestinians and he is the one who lit the flame which caused the conflagration.

F.J. GOTTSSTEIN  
Jerusalem.

### LACKING REALITY

Sir, - The advertisement which appeared on September 30 asking Prime Minister Netanyahu to "Take away the PLO guns, stand against hostile media and the 'disloyal opposition,' against international pressure..." is lacking reality. The signatories of the advertisement cannot stand against the PLO, 50 percent of the people of Israel and the Europeans, along with the Americans. Instead of that, they should ask the prime minister to face the moment of truth and establish a balance between what you want and what the others want, in order to safeguard the lives of the Palestinians and the Israelis and to keep the peace.

DR. NIMR SERHAN  
Ramallah.

## For whom the bell tolls

DAN LEON

THE slogan "Don't Give Them Guns" from the days of protest against the Rabin government is now rephrased as "Take Away Their Guns" or "Who Gave Them Guns?" A large advertisement in this paper at the beginning of the month by seven rightist organizations told Shimon Peres that "from the rifles you gave them, bullets were shot that pierced the hearts and heads of our children. How can you sleep at night?"

Putting the inflammatory language aside, the political content of these slogans deserves consideration. The first Israeli leader who virtually agreed to give them guns was Menachem Begin in the Camp David agreements of September 1978 between Egypt and Israel, which recognized "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just rights" (Begin used the words "the Arabs of Eretz Yisrael").

In the proposed autonomous area in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (which would be replaced after five years by a permanent settlement) the agreements referred specifically to the establishment of "a strong local police force which may include Jordanian citizens" for "assuring internal and external security and public order." One can hardly assume that in this context, the intention was to a force armed let us say with catapults.

Following the redeployment of Israeli forces from Palestinian population centers according to the Oslo Accords of 1993, the Palestinian Police started to function under the Palestinian National Authority (against vehement Likud-led opposition).

It is claimed that the Oslo agreements didn't take into account the possibility that Palestinians would use their guns against Israelis. Perhaps, indeed, the signatories didn't foresee that over a period of three months in 1996, one of the

two parties to the agreement would ditch the concept of reciprocity and undo the achievements of three years. On both sides, there remain many who believe that when the chips are down, the other party only understands the language of force. Yet three years of uneven progress succeeded in fostering and maintaining a degree of mutual confidence and perhaps above all - some hope for

a better Palestinian future.

Once, whatever the reason, the Israeli government smashed these hopes, sooner or later the ground rules were bound to change. The Palestinian Police was not another version of Antoine Lahad's Israeli-dominated South Lebanese Army but an expression of those "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" mentioned above. Of course their shooting Israeli soldiers was intolerable. So were the short- and long-term policy decisions which, after the opening of the Hasmonean Tunnel, brought about the tragic confrontation, and all the terrible losses involved (with some four times more Palestinian than Israeli casualties).

BEFORE OSLO, for nearly thirty years, some two million Palestinians were subject to an occupation maintained only by Israeli military strength. In these circumstances, is there not a high degree of hypocrisy in the moral indignation voiced by some Israeli supporters of the occupation,

against any use of force by the other side? All violence, particularly in the form of terrorism, must be universally denounced but when soldiers open fire, is it more moral, or more tolerable, for the occupier to shoot at the occupied than it is for the occupied to shoot back?

Groups of reserve soldiers recently condemned "the moral and political deterioration" caused by the "retreat by the government of Israel from peace agreements." The signatories to this particular petition, sponsored by Yesh Gvul, declared that "we will take no part in the continued repression of the Palestinian people in the conquered territories and in protecting the settlements which serve that purpose."

At a recent protest rally of Israeli artists in Tel Aviv, singer Hava Aliberstein attacked the prime minister's "derogatory attitude to the Palestinians" and said we must "stop seeing ourselves as the chosen people (and) understand that there are other human beings in the world; even here, just near us, there is a people really like us... except that they are hungrier and more frustrated than us."

We are facing a moment of truth which hints that the peace process may no longer be irreversible. For those who believe that all peoples have equal rights to live in freedom, the question is not who gave rifles or tanks to whom, but who can prevent more bloodshed, restore mutual confidence, and return us all to sanity before it is too late. In the famous words of the seventeenth century British poet John Donne, "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

The question is who can prevent more bloodshed

The writer is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

The author is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

The writer comments on public affairs.

## A good lunch

YOSEF GOELL

THERE are persuasive arguments against President Ezer Weizman's meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday. Even those who grudgingly admit the need for some sort of Israeli gesture to facilitate the resumption of the negotiating process with the Palestinians bridle at the timing - so soon after the bloody events of less than a fortnight ago.

But in the final analysis, the timing of yesterday's meeting was exactly right. Weizman's lunch with Arafat was not intended to preempt Netanyahu but to repair the damage done by the process by the failure of Netanyahu's amateurish tactics during his first four months in office and by Arafat's reversion to his life-long mode of bloody violence. It is still too early to judge the effectiveness of Weizman's effort in this regard, but the president's initiative was even more crucial in regard to repairing Israel's status on the world arena, where scathing criticism of Israel's role in the recent events has been egregiously one-sided.

There is certainly room to question whether the involvement of the president, a symbolic figurehead, in political affairs should at all be countenanced. In the past, all of our presidents, who were almost all former politicians, exercised heroic restraint in keeping their political opinions to themselves and their small circle of non-leaking intimates.

The fact that President Weizman has been an exception should come as no surprise. The blame for his being foisted on the nation can only be laid at the feet of the Labor Party and especially Shimon Peres, who were fully aware of his tempestuous nature.

The manner in which Weizman has performed his role may well add ammunition to those who argue in favor of eliminating the post entirely, now that the prime minister is directly elected. But in this particular case, the advantages deriving from Weizman's insistence on intervening in the negotiations with Arafat may far outweigh the disadvantages.

THEORETICALLY, Netanyahu should have been the one to make the gestures, to the extent that such gestures are necessary - and they apparently are, but he has not been able to bring himself to play such a role at this stage. His predecessors Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin were also in a somewhat similar frame of mind at the outset of their tenures. Begin was lucky to have the services of Moshe Dayan as his foreign minister and Ezer Weizman as his minister of defence to lay the groundwork for the peace

The timing of  
yesterday's meeting  
was exactly right

process with Egypt's Anwar Sadat and to get it over some daunting pitfalls.

Rabin, it should be recalled, refused in his second term to countenance any open contacts with the PLO during the first year, and balked when he was pushed by Clinton into shaking Arafat's hand on the White House lawn in September 1993. Shimon Peres was Rabin's Dayan. One of Netanyahu's problems is that neither Foreign Minister David Levy nor any other member of his cabinet have the personal stature or political clout to play that essential role today.

The emotional objections to such effusive meetings with Arafat are very understandable. The negotiating process has in no way wiped out the fact that Arafat has devoted his life to heading one of the most murderous groups among Israel's Arab enemies. He was personally responsible for some of the most heinous acts of terror against Israelis. There is also good reason to believe that he personally was behind some of the incidents in which Palestinian policemen shot and killed IDF soldiers in last month's riots.

Yesterday bereaved kinsmen of the victims of that Arafatian terror appealed to the High Court of Justice to order the attorney-general and the police to arrest Arafat on charges of murder and terrorism. The failure of that appeal constitutes a classic example of considerations of *raison d'etat* - the collective good, both of the state and of the community of individuals who constitute it - outweighing understandable considerations of personal justice. We will continue to be confronted with such dilemmas as we get deeper into the more difficult stages of the process with the Palestinians.

The writer comments on public affairs.

هذا من الاصل

# Kids do struggle to find their peer group place

PARENTING  
RUTH MASON

**M**Y eight-year-old spends her afternoons in the kibbutz children's house with about 10 other girls between the ages of six and nine (the boys don't count!) One girl is the sole leader of this group. The other girls follow her around like she's the queen. My daughter is strong and stubborn and does not always accept this authority, with the result that if she has a fight with one girl, it means she has a fight with the whole group. My husband and I never know when she comes home whether she's in a fight or has friends! We were getting concerned and had meetings with her counselors (metaplot) who would try to help her back in to the group, but now we've grown accustomed to the situation. She seems happy. Is this kind of thing usual at this age? Should we be concerned? For how long will it continue?

Roni Plotnik, PhD, director, Child Development Center, T.L.M. Kibbutz Child and Family Clinic, answers:

You don't need to worry, what is happening to your daughter is completely natural. Between the ages of six and 12, children are involved with finding their place in the peer group. The developmental task of this age is the child's social identity. Therefore, the struggle that your daughter is conducting with the group's leader is natural, normal and shows she is a girl with strengths who wants to build her own place within the group.

Of course, because we're speaking of kibbutz children, social issues are given more weight and are more central in the children's lives. It's important, therefore, that you be in good contact with the counselors, whose main job is to accompany the children within the social group.

I have no doubt that you will continue to see ups and downs in your daughter's moods based on her social life. This is not a reason to worry, but is an invitation to you to support her, talk to her, accompany her in this process which is part of her socialization.

The main objective of kibbutz children's society is to accustom and educate the kids to live within a social group in anticipation of their lives within an adult peer group. The struggle for leadership is part of the rules of the game in any society and that is the struggle with which your daughter is involved.

My daughter's name is Gabriella. My husband prefers the pronunciation Gaviella. I think

we should be united in our pronunciation of her name and I want him to pronounce it with the hard "b." Am I right to insist? Will it be confusing to her for her parents to pronounce her name differently?

Karen Goldberg, MSSW, child and family therapist, Maccabim, says:

To answer simply, no. However, you deserve an explanation. Your name is your identity. It is yours. It is who you are. Children learn very early - from birth, actually - to respond to their parents or others calling their names. They respond by body movements at first, and then by turning their head in the direction of the voice, and still later, verbally. They respond to the tone of the voice, not only to the name.

Most children are called not only by their given names, but also by terms of endearment such as honey, sweetheart or darling, as well as by nicknames such as Ari for Arieh, or Deeny for Adina. They learn to respond to more than one name very early and quickly. Your child should have no difficulty responding to either way her name is pronounced.

If the variation of "b" or "v" is a matter of accent, this, too, is not an issue for the child.

Most parents think about the child's name even before birth. Names are given for a variety of reasons with various meanings, like being named after someone or because of the time of year of the birth or for a flower or a tree or just because the parents like the name. Any and all of these reasons are legitimate and acceptable. But the reason behind deciding on a particular name may carry more weight for one of the parents. For example: "My grandmother was called Becky by my grandfather so that is how I want my daughter to be called, and not Rebecca or Rivka." Could this be an issue for you?

Usually by school age, your child shows a preference for how he/she likes to be called. He may say, "Don't call me Dudu, my name is David"; or "Call me Modi, anything but Mordechai." It is important to respect your child's wish.

Not only is your child's name his identity, but it is also an important contributing factor to her sense of self-respect and self-esteem. There are so many issues along the way for parents to compromise about and to argue over. It is important for parents to ask themselves if it is worth it for them to make an issue over an accent or a style.

Gabriella or Gaviella, no matter. It's not what you say, it's how you say it. Just love her!

## An Austrian Jew, now living in Chicago, is a senior candidate for the extreme right-wing Austrian Freedom party, Eldad Beck reports from Vienna

**W**RITER and journalist Peter Sichrovsky beams with confidence about his new political career. On Sunday, when the citizens of Austria will, for the first time, elect representatives to the European Parliament, he believes that nothing short of a miracle will prevent him from becoming a deputy, and thus making history.

Sichrovsky, aged 49, is the first Jewish candidate of the extreme right-wing Freedom Party, headed by Dr. Jörg Heider. The nomination of Sichrovsky to the second place on the list of the Freedom Party, was a political bombshell not only within Austria's small Jewish community (which has 8,000 registered members), but also among non-Jewish liberal and leftist Austrian circles, where Heider is considered to represent the dangerous new face of fascism.

"This affair has gone beyond the limits of good taste," says Paul Grosz, president of Austria's Jewish community. Heider is using Sichrovsky, explains Grosz, in an attempt to try and achieve a stamp of kashrut, to show the whole world that he's a true liberal, not a Nazi.

Austrian neo-Nazism today, however, means less play on anti-Semitism and more political slogans against "foreigners" living in Austria. "Heider had nothing against Jews," says Georg Haber, managing director of Vienna's Jewish museum, "but he is against foreigners; it's a pity that half of the Jewish community is of foreign origin, a fact that makes xenophobia our problem."

Indeed Austria's community owes part of its revival to the postwar influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union and to Jews arriving in the 1980s and '90s from Iran, a phenomenon that introduced into the mainly Ashkenazi community a large number of Sephardi Jews. Out of the 11 active synagogues in Vienna, four now belong to Sephardi congregations from Georgia, Bukhara and Iran.

Sichrovsky, whose Austrian Jewish family includes survivors of



A billboard calls on Austrians to choose the Freedom Party in the country's first European Parliament vote on Sunday. (Above right) Peter Sichrovsky at Freedom Party headquarters.



concentration camps, rejects the accusation that he serves as a Jewish alibi for Heider.

"Did he murder anyone?" he asks. "Besides Jews are always [used as] an alibi in Austria and Germany. It doesn't matter what they do. As a Jew you either decide to leave these countries or you stay."

"If you stay you are an alibi. If you accept that the new generation has the right to choose where it lives, you should also give it the freedom to join a political party, and not constantly confront it with the past of their families."

Those who know Sichrovsky personally explain his move by his unstable character, by an uncontrollable need for publicity, and by financial difficulties.

Born to a communist family of aristocratic descent, Peter studied chemistry and physics, but went on to become a journalist and writer. He moved not only from one paper to another, but from one country to another until he settled down last year in Chicago.

Living abroad, he says, doesn't contradict his political activity at home. He considers himself the representative of the 800,000 Austrians that live outside the country, and the only place he could be politically involved without having to live in Austria is the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

"Among the second generation of Jews in Austria, the question of whether this country is our home or not is very problematic. Some of us don't feel very comfortable with the decision our parents took, to come back here, because they have

always regretted it.

"It is not our decision, it is their decision. And this insecurity was passed on to the second generation."

Georg Hoffman-Ostenhof, editor of the weekly *Profil*, who severely criticized Sichrovsky's move, agrees, however, that in a certain way it symbolizes the normalization of Jewish life in postwar Austria. "The second generation, that of Chancellor Vranitzky, brought up the issue of Nazism and the Holocaust. The third generation has fewer guilt feelings, there is a normalization and Sichrovsky is the proof."

When Jörg Heider became Freedom Party leader 10 years ago, the party represented less than 5 percent of the population. Since then, the party has emerged as the second largest political movement in Vienna and in several other regions of the country.

Opinion polls suggest that it will get at least 25% in the European elections. "Heider is a pure populist, a combination of Nazism, pan-Germanism, post-1945 Austrian nationalism and anti-elite feelings," says Prof. Anton Pelinka of the Institute for Conflict Research.

"He's exploiting the discontent of the losers of the modernization process, the unemployed, the blue-collar workers. He wants to win the support of the young generation that feels alienated from the two big parties [the Social Democrats and the Conservative People's Party]. But he is too complex to be called a Nazi." Jewish poet and writer Robert

Schindel doesn't believe that Heider represents a real danger. "He's not the dangerous one, the one who will come after him will be much more dangerous, because he will pick the fruits of Heider's activity."

"Heider is an Austro-Fascist [in the tradition of Dollfuss in the '30s, but he respects the democratic rules. He's more populist than antisemitic, but many members of his party are antisemitic and he doesn't fight them."

Do Austrian Jews feel threatened by Heider's growing power? "Nowadays the survival of the community is assured," says Paul Grosz. "But I'm well aware of the fact that antisemitic and xenophobic sentiments arise in situations of crisis, and there exists a situation that might allow a man like Heider to be a force that will [disrupt] the democratic system."

"When Heider gets more votes, more Jews sit on their suitcases," adds Schindel, "but on the whole Jews here are more secure than Jews in Israel."

Sichrovsky doesn't consider Heider's party to be a neo-Nazi movement. "It represents a quarter of the population in Austria, so we are not talking about a small group of crazy extremists. To say that a quarter of the population votes for it because it is Nazi is a stupid simplification of political life in this country and an easy way to keep this party away from anything that is important in Austria."

"Ideologically speaking I see this party as an interesting modern conservative party, that questions the

system in Austria, which was a very good system in the years after the war but is unable to improve the situation and maintain stability beyond the year 2000. I think that we need today in Austria new ideas, a new kind of liberalism.

"Maybe you could compare it with your new government in Israel, or the ideas of the Republican Party in the US. My political symbol is Chancellor Kohl in Germany. He combines liberal, modern and conservative attitudes. It's true that Heider and some other politicians from different parties have in the past made comments about World War II that not only I do not agree with but I do not like to hear."

"I confronted Heider with them, and he had an interesting explanation, saying that we as Jews have no idea what it means to grow up in a family where parents were not only impressed by the Nazi movement, but also totally supportive."

"For these people it was not so easy to change after the war, like wolf turning to sheep. He grew up in a family that tried to change, but in their minds and their hearts there was a lot left from the past, a mixture of the past, the present and the future. He said that sometimes he uses a language that didn't come from him but from his family. He said he regretted it."

"[Outbursts of antisemitic comment] happened, it's terrible that it happened, and I will insist that it doesn't repeat itself. I will always speak out when something like that happens, as I did in the past when it happened with other parties. Every Austrian party has a difficult history with the past. It's their way of cleaning themselves by throwing all the dirt on one party."

Dr. Heinz Fischer, speaker of the Austrian House of Representatives and vice-president of the Austrian Socialist Party, says that sometimes Heider denounces antisemitism, other times not. "Most of us cannot believe that this is just an accident. It is a signal. And he is very talented in using some moods in the population which were already used during the '30s."

# Poor nations search for public relations help

**RUTH MORRIS**

**F**ROM small, poor countries to large, rich ones, having a friend in Washington these days means hiring your own public relations firm. Experts said that more and more countries, particularly emerging democracies, are looking to lobbyists and public relations firms for help in steering their way through the halls of power on Capitol Hill.

"Foreign governments are increasingly realizing the power of communications to influence policy," said Leonard Steinhorn, a professor of communications at Washington's American University. He calls such work "the functional equivalent to a Hollywood scriptwriter."

Doing PR work for a foreign country can involve everything from setting up meetings with the perfectly poised policy maker to preparing talking points for heads of state to painting sweeping public-image makeovers.

Or, it might involve arranging for the emperor and empress of Japan to be photographed in front of the Grand Canyon, wearing sneakers and khakis. "A lot of people hadn't seen them in anything that informal," said Lee McGrath, citing one of her PR successes.

McGrath, president of Washington-based International Cultural Communications, helped plan Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako's trip to the US in 1989. The goal, she said, was to portray her clients as "human beings, not just royal puppets."

PR's big spender, Japan, has traditionally forked out hundreds of millions of dollars annually to find allies in Washington, particularly on trade issues.

But as the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the Soviet Union pushed many countries to dip a toe into democracy, experts say, making a noise in Washington became paramount

for smaller, poorer nations too.

"We're such a small country that we're often drowned out," said Magda Sobalvarro, press director for the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington. Her country has hired public relations firms to sound the word that, after years of US- and Soviet-backed guerrilla war, Nicaragua is well on the road to political and economic reform, and to ensure that \$30 million in US financial aid last year keeps flowing.

However, working for developing countries might mean working at loggerheads with human rights groups. Edward van Kloberg, chairman of Washington World Group International, Inc., recently signed a \$15,000, three-week contract with the Honduran Maquiladora Association, which represents the interests of manufacturers who run facilities under foreign ownership.

His company's job was to counter a barrage of negative press after the personal clothing line of talk-show host Kathy Lee Gifford was linked to a Honduran sweat shop where girls as young as 13 worked day-long shifts. "It's called constructive dialogue," van Kloberg said of his work, adding that once lines of communication are open between Washington and client countries, policy reforms often follow.

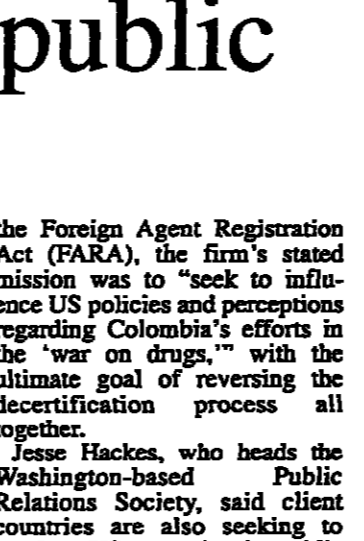
And working for poor nations does not necessarily mean working for small change. Many contracts run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. After the March 1 decertification of Colombia as a US partner in the fight against drug trafficking, Florida-based Kelley Swofford Roy, Inc. landed a six-month contract with the Colombian government for \$445,200.

According to Justice Department records filed under

the Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA), the firm's stated mission was to "seek to influence US policies and perceptions regarding Colombia's efforts in the 'war on drugs,'" with the ultimate goal of reversing the decertification process all together.

Jesse Hackes, who heads the Washington-based Public Relations Society, said client countries are also seeking to emulate US expertise in public relations at home, as demonstrated by Russia's most recent presidential election that saw Boris Yeltsin dancing energetically on stage.

Steve Ellis, senior vice president of Jefferson Waterman International, concurred. He recently traveled to Zagreb to teach a seminar on speaking to the foreign press. "You have to understand, we invented this stuff," Hackes said. "We're the best at it."



The very waters of life, according to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions, are said to flow from the Holy Land of the ancient Middle East region. Yet today's politicians are charting a perilous course: their policies could bury the area under desert sand and concrete, shatter hopes for lasting peace, and pose a threat far beyond the domain of the powerful.

Joyce Shira Starr, Ph.D., is a Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions, policy and an expert on the Middle East. Bringing a unique perspective to this topic, she makes it dramatically clear that mankind's water environment cannot be left to the secret peace, and pose a threat far beyond the domain of the powerful.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, October 9, 1996

Two bids made for Mizrahi's American subsidiary

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SAFRA Bank and Commercial Bank of New York have submitted bids for the purchase of United Mizrahi Bank and Trust Company, the New York subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank.

The bids for Mizrahi's US operations and Latin American representative offices were submitted Monday.

Prof. Eliezer Sheffer, one of the bank's two trustees, is scheduled to fly to Washington today to decide on the bids with consultant William Issac, the bank's other trustee.

Sheffer refused to comment on the issue yesterday, explaining that as a trustee he is prohibited from discussing the sale.

The two trustees will probably announce the winner within a short time, since the banking authorities in the US have already approved a letter of instructions to the trustees on how to sell the bank.

Approximately one month ago the trustees of United Mizrahi Bank and Trust Company vetoed the bank's sale to Commercial Bank of New York.

The two trustees instructed Mizrahi to offer the subsidiary to other potential buyers, despite the letter of intent already signed with Commercial Bank.

About seven months ago, Commercial Bank, owned by Brazilian banking magnate Edmundo Safdie, signed a letter of intent to acquire United Mizrahi Bank and Trust Company for \$22m.

The contenders' new bids are believed to be higher than Commercial Bank's original bid.

The trustees' objection to the letter of intent because it was reached behind their backs and also due to a series of complaints from the Safra family, the owners of Republic Bank.

Following the Ofer-Wertheim group's purchase of UMB's controlling share in January 1995, the shares of UMB New York were put in trust.

The trustees have very broad powers regarding the shares of the bank, including sole power to approve its sale.

The Ofer-Wertheim group's decision to sell the subsidiary is in line with its preference to get out of international activities and concentrate on the bank's operations in Israel.

During the last few years, UMB New York has suffered large losses, resulting from the crisis in the US real estate market at the start of the 1990s.

In the previous two years, the bank has undergone a recovery process, including the sale of assets.

Meridor considers increased budget cuts in '97

EVELYN GORDON

THE government will propose even deeper cuts in the 1997 budget if this year's target of a 2.8 percent budget deficit is not met, Finance Minister Dan Meridor told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

Currently, the Treasury is proposing NIS 4.9 billion in cuts for 1997.

Meridor said it was too early to tell yet whether revenues would be high enough to keep the 1996 deficit target from being exceeded, and that he would not know whether additional cuts are necessary until the end of the year.

"But if it turns out that revenues do not reach the necessary level, we'll have to deal with this right at the start of the year, via an additional cut in expenditures," he said.

Meridor also spoke about the connection between the peace process and the economy, stressing that while progress in the talks is clearly good for the economy, "it is not a necessary condition."

"The absence of war and terror attacks contributes to economic stability, but this is a positive, rather than a necessary, condition," he said. "The state of Israel has grown for 43 years without peace... We have grown very

rapidly even in difficult years." Even this year, despite the shocks of the bus bombings in February-March and Operation Grapes of Wrath in April, local companies nearly doubled the amount of money they succeeded in raising on overseas stock exchanges, he noted.

Attacked on this point by opposition MKs, Meridor retorted that Labor - had it stuck to its pre-election promises regarding Jerusalem, the settlements and the Palestinian right of return - would also have run into a crisis sooner or later.

"Sometimes you have to pay a price [for what you believe in]," he said. "We need to create as good an economic situation as possible, but without illusions."

However, Meridor stressed, economics can also facilitate the peace process.

This is especially true in relations with Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, he said.

"In my opinion, we have not done enough over the past two years [in terms of economic relations with Jordan]," he said.

Regarding the economy in gen-

eral, Meridor noted that there has been a definite slowdown in growth, though it is far from a recession: During the first half of the year, the economy grew by 1.8% (about 3.6% in annual terms). But what is particularly worrying, he said, is that there is no slowdown at all in private consumption.

It grew 8% in annual terms during the first half, while exports have been virtually flat, leading to a \$3.2b. balance of payments deficit in the first half of the year.

This is a clear indication that the root of the problem is the government's excessive budget deficit, he said, and if this is not dealt with, "no gimmick will help."

"There is not a single person who understands economics who disagrees that a budget cut is the proper remedy," he stressed, urging the committee to support the government's cuts.

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor), head of the opposition in the committee, launched a blistering attack on Meridor.

"I agree that there are problems.

But one cannot say there are problems and then do nothing for three months," he said. "It is inconceivable that the deputy treasurer of the Likud (Moshe Leon) should be put in charge of structural changes. He has no idea what's going on in the economy... This is how one reforms the economy? And you say nothing?"

"There is a feeling, and not just in the press or among the opposition, that there is total paralysis in the economic field," he concluded, eliciting a rare show of anger from Meridor.

"Why did you do nothing for a full year?" Meridor retorted, noting that Shohat and other Treasury officials had been aware for at least that long that a budget cut was necessary.

He particularly scored Labor's irresponsibility in racking up an unprecedented \$3.2b. balance of payments deficit in the first half of this year after inheriting a balance of payments surplus from the Likud in 1992.

Shohat also disputed Meridor's statement that the economy could survive a crisis in the peace process. "If there is no peace, and no peace process, the economy will be damaged or destroyed," he said.

Sharon mulls new railways in areas, into Jordan

DAVID HARRIS

THE National Infrastructure Ministry is considering plans for four new rail routes - including lines between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Eilat and Sodom, and two lines between Israel and Jordan.

The ministry, together with the Railways Authority, is discussing three possible alternatives to the existing service between Tel Aviv and the capital.

The simplest solution would be to use the current line and new, faster trains.

Two new routes are also being examined. The first would run parallel to the Route 1 Highway. The second option is to construct a line alongside the planned Route 45 Highway, which would leave Jerusalem northwards, passing Givat Ze'ev and Hashmonaim, this stretch being across the Green Line.

Minister Ariel Sharon's office yesterday strongly denied media suggestions that this route has already been selected. "We are weighing up the economic considerations, not the political," said a source close to Sharon.

The ministry has confirmed it is also looking at two new train lines between Israel and Jordan - between Haifa and Mafrag, and from Eilat to Aqaba.

The Haifa to Mafrag service would not initially be for passengers, "but once the track is laid that could easily change," said the source.

In addition to the southern border route, a line would be built northwards to Sodom. This would open up both freight exports and imports, together with encouraging tourists into the Arava and Dead Sea areas.

The ministry are asking for the line to be built across the border, giving Israel and Jordan dual control.

Sharon has already indicated he intends establishing two lines between Gaza and the West Bank, and operating a service between the Erez crossing point to Gaza and the port of Ashdod.

He has also indicated he is in favor of a line from Gaza to Kalkilya being extended into Jordan.

However, the PA considers the Gaza-Ashdod line as merely an attempt to prevent the creation of a seaport in Gaza, according to Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction director-general Mohammad Shbatiyyeh.

This claim was strongly denied by Sharon's office yesterday. The opening of a line to Gaza will remove much of the congestion from the roads to Gaza, according to the ministry. Each day some 3,000 tons of concrete are driven to Gaza from Ramle. "Opening the train line would take several hundred trucks off the roads, for example," said the source.

The ministry is also looking into the possible long-term options of extending the coastal route train line north of Nahariya and constructing a line to Tiberias.

Embassies instructed to spruce up Israel's image following unrest

DAVID HARRIS

THE Industry and Trade Ministry has instructed commercial attaches at embassies worldwide to try and repair the damage caused by the recent unrest in the territories.

Ministry Director of Foreign Trade Administration Zohar Peri has requested that attaches immediately begin a promotional campaign to show foreign companies the positive side of Israel's economy.

The attaches will compile reports on the current attitudes toward Israel in their host countries and attempt to establish if any visits have been postponed or canceled.

Meanwhile, ministry officials said the presidents of 28 of Japan's largest corporations have still not confirmed plans to visit Israel following the Cairo economic summit in November.

Former Ministry director general Yosi Snir confirmed in August that the visit of the senior executives from companies - including Fujitsu, NEC Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Mitsubishi's banking and industrial divisions, Tomson Corp. and Fuji Bank Ltd.

"The companies have certainly not canceled," but they have not confirmed either, said Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for economic affairs Oded Eran.

Record provident fund withdrawals last month

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK provident funds suffered record high redemptions of NIS3.51 billion in September, despite posting positive real yields, the Treasury reported yesterday.

The funds' total withdrawals since the start of the year total NIS10.88b., according to figures from the country's large banks.

deposits of NIS1.937b. last month. Since the start of the year, saving plans have accumulated NIS5.17b.

In September, index-linked plans attracted NIS2.06b., foreign-currency-linked plans registered withdrawals of NIS122m. and training funds suffered redemptions of NIS140m.

Israel Corp. seeks foreign partner for Zim

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Corporation is negotiating with several international companies to find a strategic partner for Zim, a spokesman for Israel Corp. confirmed yesterday.

Israel Corp. and the government decided to locate a partner for the shipping and container line after failing to raise capital via the New York Stock Exchange during the past two years. Market analysts said Zim's small profits and the worldwide crisis in the shipping sector

Authority decided there is no point in issuing Zim's shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange due to the recession in the shipping industry.

Several months ago Zim said an external source to finance the company's modernization program must be found if the public offering does not go ahead.



A portrait of far-right Austrian leader Joerg Haider on a campaign poster is framed by an old tractor 60 kilometers southeast of Vienna. The far right is trying to pick up support ahead of Sunday's European parliamentary elections from voters in the country angry over the drastic slide of farm prices. Farmers used to receive higher subsidies from the state before Austria joined the European Union in January 1995, but now many farms are closing down.

Internet company to offer phone-to-phone service

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

DELTA Three, a Jerusalem-based Internet telephony technology and service company, announced plans to introduce an Internet-based phone line that will allow customers here to place cheaper telephone calls to New York using standard telephones, company chairman Jacob Davidson said.

Although the service will have all the drawbacks of Internet communication - feedback and slow response time - it will offer rates that could be up to 80 percent lower than other long-distance carriers.

The service, which will start within the next month, will allow customers to call New York by dialing a local access number via their traditional phone that will automati-

cally transfer on to the Internet for the long-distance part of the call.

"Delta is one of the first companies to offer an Internet telephony service that is phone-to-phone," said Michael Selesny, an analyst with New York-based Israel Securities Center, which has raised venture capital for the company.

Delta Three's test application, which was set up between Israel and St. Petersburg, offered the service for less than 25% of the cost of traditional long-distance carriers, the company said.

Delta Three's Russian subsidiary is in the process of extending service to Moscow, Kiev and a number of other Eastern European and CIS locations.

Record provident fund withdrawals last month

BANK provident funds suffered record high redemptions of NIS3.51 billion in September, despite posting positive real yields, the Treasury reported yesterday.

The funds' total withdrawals since the start of the year total NIS10.88b., according to figures from the country's large banks.

Israel Corp. seeks foreign partner for Zim

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Corporation is negotiating with several international companies to find a strategic partner for Zim, a spokesman for Israel Corp. confirmed yesterday.

Israel Corp. and the government decided to locate a partner for the shipping and container line after failing to raise capital via the New York Stock Exchange during the past two years. Market analysts said Zim's small profits and the worldwide crisis in the shipping sector

Authority decided there is no point in issuing Zim's shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange due to the recession in the shipping industry.

Several months ago Zim said an external source to finance the company's modernization program must be found if the public offering does not go ahead.

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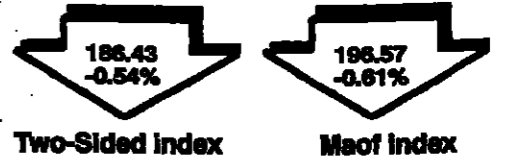
Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "האנא מן אלאט"



Shares fall as investors await reports

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARES declined yesterday as investors assessed the peace talks and awaited a September inflation report and third-quarter earnings.

"Among foreign clients, it's quiet" said Yaron Pitaru, head of research at Ofek Securities in Tel Aviv. "They're not panicking, not selling, but not buying aggressively. They want to see that the peace process won't crash."

In addition, investors are looking toward a relatively low September inflation figure, Pitaru said. Estimates for the figure, to be reported next Tuesday, are for a monthly increase of 0.5 percent or 0.6%.

The Two-Sided Index declined 0.54% to 186.43, while the Maof Index dropped 0.61% to 196.57.

The most active issue was Koor

Industries Ltd., the nation's largest company, down 1.75% on trading of NIS 3.6 million.

Also leading the market lower were Discount Bank Investments and Israel Chemicals, each down 1.5%. Bucking the trend were American-Israeli Paper Mills Ltd., up 2.5%; the medical-equipment maker Elbit Ltd., up 1%; and Elron Electronic Industries Ltd., a technology holding company, also up 1%.

Electra Consumer Products rose 4%, while Discount Bank gained 1%.

Israel Corp. rose 0.5%. The holding company controlled by Shaul Eisenberg holds a stake in Zim Lines. The shipping company said it is in talks with a number of potential strategic partners.

(Bloomberg)

Eurobourses stage recovery as Dow rallies

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - A firmer start on Wall Street yesterday reversed early losses on European stock exchanges that were digesting record highs hit by no fewer than eight bourses on Monday.

London, Europe's biggest exchange, closed at a record high on the back of Wall Street, where the Dow jumped the 6,000-point hurdle about an hour after its opening. It failed to sustain gains above that level, however, and was up about six points at 5,986 when the London market closed.

London rallied after an early

diverge when the government said shareholders would no longer be able to claim tax credits on share buybacks or special dividend payouts.

The surprise statement initially wiped almost 30 points off the FTSE Index. But it closed 4.1 points higher at 4035.6 - its third consecutive record close.

In Frankfurt, German shares ended floor trading weaker, before Wall Street opened, but post-bourse electronic trading reversed most of the losses.

Stocks fall, flirt with 6,000

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks lost ground yesterday as worries about corporate earnings and profit-taking after recent strong gains once again kept the Dow Jones industrial average from closing above 6,000 points.

The Dow ended 13.04 points lower at 5,966.77 after an early rally stalled at 6,010.37. In the

broader market, declining issues led advances 1,361 to 1,014 on active volume of 434 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The technology-studded Nasdaq Composite Index lost 10.72 points at 1,240.15, one day after posting its first record close in four months.

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1) "We have signed agreements and we must both honor these agreements and honor their implementation on the ground. Negotiations will be the instrument for solving our differences," he added.

He suggested that the talks currently taking place at Erez checkpoint be held continuously at Taba and Eilat until a satisfactory conclusion is reached.

"The most important thing is to hold continuous meetings in a certain place like Taba or Eilat. These two groups, Israeli and Palestinian, must work day and night until they arrive at a certain

conclusion," he said. Arafat also invited Weizman to visit Gaza after the president said, in answer to a question, that he would like to go there and see what it is now like.

Weizman himself shrugged off suggestions that he was interfering in politics, saying that the meeting was aimed at assisting talks and creating a better atmosphere.

He stressed that the meeting had been coordinated with and approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with whom he had been in touch beforehand and who he briefed immediately afterward.

GOLD

(Continued from Page 1) Foreign Ministry acting director-general Eitan Benzur is convening special internal consultations tomorrow on the troubled relations with Jordan.

Netanyahu yesterday also called for continued dialogue with the Arab world despite current differences of opinion. Speaking to members of the coalition and afterward to the press, Netanyahu said the talks must go on.

"I think it important to continue the dialogue with Arab leaders. To

that purpose, I have been in touch with President Ezer Weizman about his talks with Yasser Arafat," he said. He added that the planned meeting between Weizman and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak next week is intended "among other things to serve as bridge of understanding to communicate to [the Egyptians] as I wish also to communicate to King Hussein that this government and the entire people is committed to peace."

Lia Collins contributed to this report.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, FF. Rows include various currency rates.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Table of stock prices for Multi-sided trading, including Commercial, Industrial, and Mortgage Banks & Finance.

Two-sided trading

Table of stock prices for Two-sided trading, including AFTERNOON and MORNING sessions.

Property, Building & Agriculture

Table of stock prices for Property, Building & Agriculture.

Trade & Services

Table of stock prices for Trade & Services.

PARALLEL LIST

Table of stock prices for PARALLEL LIST, including Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Oil Exploration.

Key Representative Rates: US dollar, Sterling, Mark.

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Table of New York market indexes: DJ Industrial, NYSE, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes: FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

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Table of Israeli stocks in US: Am Rep, Am Tel, etc.

AG, Airlines, Banks, etc.

Table of various stock categories: AG, Airlines, Banks, etc.

AG, Airlines, Banks, etc.

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AG, Airlines, Banks, etc.

Table of various stock categories: AG, Airlines, Banks, etc.

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Table of international money markets: Dollar crosses, etc.

Libor rates

Table of Libor rates for various terms.

Foreign financial data courtesy of

Table of foreign financial data from CommStock Trading Ltd.

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Table of US commodities: Sugar, etc.

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Table of spot market metals: Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures: Gold, Silver, etc.

London metal fixes

Table of London metal fixes: Gold, Silver, etc.

AG, Airlines, Banks, etc.

Table of various stock categories: AG, Airlines, Banks, etc.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and text.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various companies and regions.

# Israel readies for Russia

### Following win over Bulgaria, Israel looks to advance World Cup qualifying hopes

TODAY'S European Group 5 World Cup qualifier between Israel and Russia will be a very different one from the big game of 40 years ago. The Israelis are still the underdogs, but Russia does not hold such a huge qualitative advantage, and considering that they arrived here only a day before the encounter and most of the players are reaching the end of their domestic league season, the advantage could be slightly on Israel's side.

With a win already under their belts, the hosts are confident that they can beat the Russians, and if they want to mount a serious challenge for a place in the finals in France in 1998, they must realistically win all their home matches.

The match could be the most significant since Israel's two-legged playoff for a place in the 1992 World Cup finals in Italy. According to coach Shlomo Scharf, if Israel manages a win today and then an away win over Cyprus in a month's time, there will be every reason to expect his side to vie for a spot in the finals.

almost all the positions in the starting lineup. His main dilemma lies between placing Ronnie Rosenthal or Eyal Berkowitz in the starting lineup. This will probably only be decided at the last moment. Scharf has apparently also opted for Rafi Cohen in goal over Bonnie Ginsburg. Captain Nir Klinger is also not assured of a place in the starting lineup and he may yet have to wait for another opportunity before he can register his record-equaling 80th appearance for the national team.

In the game against Bulgaria, Klinger surrendered the captain's armband to Tal Banin and came on as substitute only in the 77th minute for Ronnen Harazi. Israel's expected starting lineup is: Rafi Cohen, Felix Halfon, David Amsalem, Alon Hazan, Air Shelah, Gadi Brumer, Tal Banin, Haim Revivo, Avi Nimri, Ronnen Harazi, Ronnie Rosenthal or Eyal Berkowitz.

Israel's opponents, led by coach Boris Ignatiev, held a training session at the National Stadium in the evening. It remains to be seen whether the summer conditions will prove a factor in the game, given the fact that the Russians

**ORI LEWIS and DEREK FATTAL**

have not time to acclimatize to the relative heat and humidity, having come straight from their training camp outside Moscow.

Although the visitors' morale is high in the wake of an easy 4-0 victory on home soil in the opening group against Cyprus, the Russians are aware that they cannot afford a setback this evening.

Indeed, it is the Russians who have to prove themselves in the wake of disappointing performances at the USA 1994 World Cup finals, and the failure in this summer's European Championship, which led to Ignatiev's appointment in place of former coach Oleg Romantsev.

Ignatiev is more of a tactician than his predecessor and, if the performance against Cyprus is anything to go by, the Russians can be expected to build up patiently from the back, then move the ball to the wings in an effort to outflank the Israeli midfield.

On his day, Everton's Andrei Kanchelskis remains one of the

world's most feared right-wingers, and clearly has the potential to create nightmares for his marker by reaching the dead ball line to cross the ball into the area towards Vladimir Beschastnikh (Racing Santander) and the razor-sharp Bologna attacker Igor Kolivanov. Kolivanov has been in top form recently at club level and remains the top scorer in Russia's current squad with 12 goals.

The Russians are fairly strong in midfield and the spectators are likely to witness tactical battle on a par with the last national outing against Bulgaria.

Valencia's powerhouse Valeri Karpin is the main danger, and 20 year-old Vladislav Radimov (CSKA Moscow) possesses skill and vision of a level rarely found in one so young.

The pair is expected to be joined by Valeri Minko who has fought his way back onto the international stage after his career was almost wrecked by injury in the last World Cup.

The Achilles heel in the visitor's lineup is in defense, where the side was constantly let down in its European Championship matches against Italy, Germany and

Slovakia. The Russians are most sensitive to attacks coming from the right side where Rosenthal is often effective. On the other hand, Scharf's men are usually more potent on the other flank where Revivo can weave his special blend of magic.

The Israelis may have to throw more into attack than Scharf usually deems prudent, but as he remarked yesterday, "We need to take risks to succeed."

Finding the correct balance is imperative, but if the gamble pays off, Israel will end up three points clear with a bunch of acres in hand.

The match will be broadcast live on Channel 1, with a choice of radio coverage on Army Radio and Radio 2.

Last night, Bulgaria won its first match of the tournament, a 2-1 victory over hosts Luxembourg.

Team	P	W	D	L	Pf	Pa	Pts
Russia	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Israel	1	0	0	2	1	3	0
Bulgaria	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Luxembourg	1	0	1	1	2	0	0
Cyprus	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

### Israel Under-21 wins

Israel's Under-21 squad powered its way to the top of its European qualifying group table with a hard-fought 1-0 victory against its Russian counterparts at Herzliya's Municipal Stadium last night.

The decisive goal came in the 37th minute from a lofted corner floated in from the right by Manor Hasson which was met by a purposeful header by Golan Deri, that bulleted into the back of the net.

*Derek Fattal*

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Israel	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Cyprus	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# Braves were 9-4 vs. Cards in regular season

ATLANTA (AP) - From all indications, the Atlanta Braves should have an easy time of it in the National League championship series against the St. Louis Cardinals.

To a man, however, the Braves all agree: Don't believe it.

"It's a different game come playoff time," third baseman Chipper Jones said Monday before a workout curtailed by a steady rain.

Although both clubs are coming off three-game sweeps in the opening round of the NL playoffs - the Braves over the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Cardinals defeating the San Diego Padres - Atlanta is favored because of its 9-4 edge in the regular season.

The defending World Series champion Braves have also been in three of the last four World Series, have won 14 of their last 17 postseason games and won seven straight at home.

In addition, the Braves have their Big Three of John Smoltz, Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine ready and well rested. That trio gave up only two earned runs in the sweep of the Dodgers, holding the Los Angeles batters to a .140 average.

Other advantages by Atlanta in the regular season: The Braves out-hit St. Louis 241 to 227, out-homered them 22-9 and outscored them 67-47. Atlanta's pitchers had a 3.10 ERA. St. Louis was at 4.50.

"It's all wiped away. It all starts over on Wednesday," said Braves manager Bobby Cox.

The best-of-7 series opens tonight with the first of two games in Atlanta before moving to St. Louis for three games, beginning on Saturday. If necessary, the final two games will be played in Atlanta.

Smoltz, who scattered four hits in Atlanta's 2-1 opening game victory over Los Angeles, will start for the Braves in the opener. He was 24-8 during the regular season, 1-1 against the Cardinals. Andy Benes, who was 18-10 during the season, 1-1 against Atlanta, will start for St. Louis.

"I feel good about our chances, but again, this is a different game come playoff time," said Jones, who hit .340 with 3 homers and 9 RBIs during the regular season against St. Louis.

Others who had success against the Cardinals this year include catcher Javy Lopez, who hit .343 with 4 homers and 11 RBIs; first baseman Fred McGriff, who hit .321 with 3 homers and a team-high 12 RBIs; and center fielder Marquis Grissom, who hit only .232 but had 6 of his 23 home runs against St. Louis and drove in 10 runs.

"I didn't even know," said Grissom. "I don't keep up with stats. I can't tell you why I had success against any team. I can't explain it. I go out and play hard every day. Some days I'm good, and some days I'm not."

# Coyotes get first NHL victory

BOSTON (Reuters) - Mike Gartner posted his 17th career hat trick and Nikolai Khabibulin turned aside 30 shots as the Phoenix Coyotes scored four goals in the first period and defeated the Boston Bruins 5-2 on Monday.

Phoenix, which spent the past 21 seasons in Winnipeg, won its first game since the move.

"Nice to get that first win," said Phoenix head coach Don Hay. "We wanted to come in here and match the Bruins' work ethic. We knew they were one of the hardest working teams in the NHL and I thought we matched it shift for shift."

Mighty Ducks 6, Canadiens 6  
Bobby Dollas scored with 5:51 left in regulation to lift the visiting Mighty Ducks into a wild tie.

Dollas' goal came after the Ducks allowed three goals in the first 8:17 of the third period to squander a 5-3 lead.

The Ducks had all five shots in overtime. Anaheim led 5-3 after two periods but Brian Savage's third goal of the game made it 5-4, and just 53 seconds later Pierre Turgeon scored for Montreal to tie the game.

Flyers 3, Devils 1  
Defenseman Karl Dykhuis and Shjon Podein each scored in a span of 2:26 in the third period to lead host Philadelphia to its first win of the season.

The Devils took a 1-0 lead into the final period before Rod Brind'Amour took a centering pass from Joel Otto and wristed the puck into an open left side of the net for a short-handed goal just 68 seconds into the session.

MONDAY'S NHL RESULTS: Phoenix 5, Boston 2; Montreal 6, Anaheim 6 (OT); Philadelphia 3, New Jersey 1.

# Fallon summoned by England

LONDON (Reuters) - Winger Jim Fallon has earned the distinction of being the first former rugby league player to be included in England's senior rugby union squad.

Fallon won four England A caps in 1992 before switching codes to join Leeds, but is now back in the 15-a-side game with Richmond.

He was called up at short notice

*Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor*

# Steelers top Chiefs for 4th straight

### Slovakia to host Israel in Davis Cup

HEATHER CHAIT

ISRAEL'S first Davis Cup tennis clash in the 1997 competition will be an away tie against Slovakia.

After the draw which was made in London yesterday, Israel was given a bye in the first round to be played in February and will meet the strong Slovak side, a seeded nation in the Euro/African Zone Group 1, on April 4-6.

Slovakia's two top players, Karol Kucera and Jan Krosnak, are among the world's top 100 players, at 76 and 85 respectively on the IBM/ATP computer rankings.

Krosnak is a familiar name to the Israeli crowd after he won last year's Eisenberg Israel Open.

The advantage has to lie with Slovakia since its players both outrank Israel's No. 1 player Eyal Ran who is at 153.

Israel No. 2 Noam Behr now occupies the 213 spot, with Nir Weigreen at 232. Eyal Erlich (316) lost in three sets in 1995 to Kucera in Rosmalen.

If Israel wins, it will be promoted to the World Group Qualifying Round, while a loss will mean another tough tie in the shape of either Morocco, Croatia or Austria at home.

### Steelers top Chiefs for 4th straight

KANSAS CITY (AP) - If Neil O'Donnell got \$25 million, what's Mike Tomczak worth?

The 33-year-old career backup who replaced O'Donnell threw for 338 yards Monday night to lead the Steelers to a 17-7 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs.

It was Pittsburgh's fourth straight win since an opening-day loss in Jacksonville and the first loss for the Chiefs in their last 12 regular-season games at Arrowhead Stadium dating to December 4, 1994. It was also their second straight loss after starting the season with four wins and left them a game behind Denver in the AFC West.

So while O'Donnell sits with a separated right shoulder for the 0-6 Jets, where he went after leading the Steelers to the Super Bowl last year, Tomczak, who was 20-of-30 Monday night, excels after 11 years in and out of lineups in Chicago, Green Bay, Cleveland and now Pittsburgh.

He had lots of help Monday night. Jerome Bettis, gained 103 yards on 27 carries, his fourth straight 100-yard game. It included Pittsburgh's only touchdown, a 6-yard run with 2:41 left in the third quarter.

Charles Johnson caught six passes for 125 yards and the Pittsburgh defense limited Kansas



STRETCHING IT - Pittsburgh's Yancy Thigpen is airborne as he catches a 1st-down pass from Mike Tomczak. The Chiefs' Darren Andersen defends. (Reuters)

City to only one trip inside its 20 - yard line in the game.

Pittsburgh got inside the Chiefs' 5-yard-line three times in the first 42 minutes and came out with just six points - field goals of 21 and 32 yards by Norm Johnson. A third field goal attempt early in the third quarter was blocked by Kansas City's Derrick Thomas. Johnson capped the scoring with a 43-yard field goal with 1:10 to play.

The blocked field goal didn't

that would hold up.

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*Derek Fattal*

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Israel	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Cyprus	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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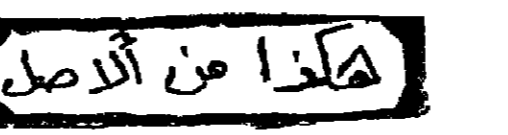
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**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**MICHAEL AJZENSTADT**

IT seems like the Consort of Music must visit us each and every year and local music lovers are lucky that this is the case. Because this superb vocal ensemble, led by lutenist Anthony Rooley, is one of the finest ensembles around for vocal music of the baroque and the periods immediately following it. This time the Consort of Music, with Emma Kirkby, Evelyn Tubb and their friends, performs a selection of compositions by Monteverdi. Tonight in Haifa, Saturday at the Jerusalem Theatre and Sunday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center - the opening concert of the Great Artists at the Center series (8.30).

The Israel Camerata Orchestra Ramat Hasharon, under the new artistic directorship of Menahem Neuberhaus, opens its season under the music director's baton with Mozart's 29th symphony and works by Prokofiev and Bridge. Gabi Lipkind joins to play Haydn's C major cello concerto. The season opens Saturday at Tzavta in Tel Aviv (11 a.m.) and Sunday in Yad Labanum at Ramat Hasharon (8.30).

You can still hear the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheva in its season opener, performing, under the baton of music director Uri Mayer, Bruckner's Second Mass and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

The soloists are soprano Larisa Tateev and mezzo Susanna Foretsky and the chorus comes from Sweden. Tomorrow at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem and Saturday at the Tel Aviv Museum, 8.30.

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**



The Consort of Music baroque singers return to these shores.

erful Israeli choreographer's account of the memories of the Holocaust - a most beguiling opus danced to perfection by the members of the company.

**FILM**

**ADINA HOFFMAN**

\*\*\* 1/2 **FLIRTING WITH DISASTER** - Mel (Ben Stiller), the control-freak hero of David O. Russell's wickedly funny film, has a very literal identity crisis when he and his wife (Patricia Arquette) give birth to their first child.

Adopted as a baby by a highly-strung Jewish couple (Mary Tyler Moore and George Segal), Mel is suddenly eager to find his biological parents, so he sets out on a road trip to find them. Russell's movie ingeniously uses the methods of classic screwball comedy to take aim against a contemporary target: Popular Oprah-styled psychobabble about identity, roots, and healing. Meanwhile, the physical bedlam that surrounds the characters keeps flying, cream-pie-style, splat in the face of such touchy-feely rhetoric.

The broad humiliations (many of them sexual) to which the writer/director subjects all his people don't do much to help them "heal" or "connect," so much as remind them what fallible klutzes they really are.

Also with Lily Tomlin and Alan Alda. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.)

**DANCE**

**MICHAEL AJZENSTADT**

THE Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company performs tonight (8:30) in Yokne'am, Rami Be'er's tantalizing opus *Aide Memoire*, the pow-



TEL AVIV MUSEUMS. Susan and Anton Roland-Rosenberg Collection 24 masterpieces by modern artists. Fauvism Wild Beasts. Josef Beuys Drawings and Objects. Prints. New acquisitions. New Horizons: Sculpture. Face to Face. The Hebrew Collections. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Summer Exhibition for Children: Celebration of Colour games and workshop. I Am You Artists Against Violence: 20 posters. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 10.30. Meyerhof Art Education Center. Tel. 6819155-8.

**TELEVISION**

**CHANNEL 1**

6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

**EDUCATIONAL TV**

8:00 Evolutionary Trends 8:30 On Second Thought 9:00 Society 9:05 In Not Me 9:30 Candy Can Do It 9:45 Programs for young children 9:50 Democracy 10:15 A Century of Zionism 11:15 Geography 11:25 The Basics of Geography 11:40 Judaism 12:05 Music 12:35 Science and Technology 13:00 The Onedin Line 14:00 Surprise Train 14:25 Kitty Cat and Tommy 14:45 Gaya, Gal and Gil 15:00 Animals

**CHANNEL 1**

15:30 Zap to 1 15:32 Video Force 15:50 The Adventures of Dodo 16:00 Yaidude 16:30 The Genie from Down Under 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 News in English 17:50 Soccer ARABIC PROGRAMS 18:40 News 18:50 Soccer HEBREW PROGRAMS 20:00 News 20:45 Contentione Call 21:20 The Sculptress - new 4-part suspense series 22:10 No Man's Land - Ram Evron takes a second look at media reports 22:55 Soccer 23:30 News 00:00 Verse of the Day

**CHANNEL 2**

13:00 Top Cat 13:30 Itz end Mitz 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Street Wise - drama series 15:00 Beethoven - animated series 15:30 Dave's World 16:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rash Reshev 17:30 SporTV - sport magazine for youth 18:00 Senora 19:00 The Crew 19:25 Working Girl 20:00 News 20:30 Wheel of Fortune 21:30 Fatal Money 22:32 Shattered (1991) - on waking up in hospital after a traffic accident, a man discovers that he has no memory. Although his wife helps with photographs, he has a nagging suspicion that something is not as it

**WHERE TO GO**

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 200.00 per line, including VAT. Insertions every day of the month cost NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

**JERUSALEM CONDUCTED TOURS**

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 882819.HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-416333, 02-776271.

**TEL AVIV MUSEUMS**

TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Susan and Anton Roland-Rosenberg Collection 24 masterpieces by modern artists. Fauvism Wild Beasts. Josef Beuys Drawings and Objects. Prints. New acquisitions. New Horizons: Sculpture. Face to Face. The Hebrew Collections. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Summer Exhibition for Children: Celebration of Colour games and workshop. I Am You Artists Against Violence: 20 posters. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 10.30. Meyerhof Art Education Center. Tel. 6819155-8.

**HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.**

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

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Jerusalem: Clal Pharm, 22 Karfel Nesharim, 651-0485; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2515; Shustat, Shustat Road, 581-0108; Dar Adawa, Herods Gate, 628-2040. Tel Aviv: Pharma Dal Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvrol, 546-2040; Kupat Holim Maccabi, 7 HaSifa, 548-6538; 7th St. Pharmacy, 548-6538; Tel Aviv: Pharmacy, 125 Ibn Gvrol, 546-2040. Tel. midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Mishkon Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hameloni, 698-0115; Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Meroz Ra'anana, 120 Ahuva, Ra'anana, 903798; Netanya: Netanya, Shalom, 617836; Krayot: Arzi, Hararim, Simat Modrin, Krayot Arzi, 694-0115; Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312; Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Meshulim, Herzliya; Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.  
Upper Galilee: Clal Pharm, Lev Har'el, 57-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**DUTY HOSPITALS**  
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (Internal, obstetrics, ENT); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (surgery, orthopedics); Bar Ilan (pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (ophthalmology).  
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatry Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).  
Netanya: Laniado.

**POLICE 100**

**FIRE 102**

**FIRST AID 101**  
Magen David Adom  
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In Ashdod:  
Ashdod 8551333  
Ashdod 6551322  
Ashdod 6574767  
Beit Shean 6223133  
Beit Shean 5733333  
Dan Region 9642333  
Haifa 8512233  
Jerusalem 5480111  
Tel Aviv 5480111  
Thiber 7394444  
Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) services in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English)  
177-022-9110  
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.  
Eran - Emotional First Aid, 1201, also 767-4555, Hadera 346785.  
Who's who for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-548-1133 (also in Russian), 07-837-5310, 08-855-0505 (also in Arabic).  
Pope Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (Heb.), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.  
Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7678.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- Six-footer, a vulgar man, captured by US intelligence (6)
- I scar Tim horribly with this sword (8)
- Brick carried by paramedic (9)
- Girl's clothing (and boy's) (5)
- Go a different way, having a quantity of work in night-club (7)
- Sailing ship had this radar? My mistake! (4-3)
- For example, hearing intelligent comment (5)
- Music for service unsatisfactory - cancel it (8)
- March can be extremely exhaust disciplinarian (8)
- Bread made of the French check (5)

**DOWN**

- Counter she'd curiously put into barrel (4,4)
- Two vehicles hem in a third one (7)
- Discourage chap getting cleaner (9)

23 Live in, wearing official dress? (7)

25 Make a count? (7)

26 Boat seen only in America? No, everywhere (5)

27 What Jack gets up to in pantomime? (9)

28 One who's very precise inserts line into poster (8)

29 Affair is dull to monarch (8)

**SOLUTIONS**

**MEDIUM STAFFORD**  
A B S E L R R  
G A P E R I O S O N A W  
A D W H N P A W  
Z A R I S G E L D O S S I V E  
I E A S I T A V E  
N A N I V I U L L A Y  
E S I H M C S E  
I E E C C A E N T E V  
L E I K A R G A R I A H A  
E L E T R A S  
C O L O S S A L G A S I N O  
K E A S W R  
S U R P R I S E B E A U C E

Yesterday's Quick Solution  
ACROSS: 1 Runner, 4 Weigh, 8 Fresh, 9 Trolls, 10 Espresso, 11 Snye, 12 Pass, 14 Pleas, 15 Aide, 16 Low, 21 Eira, 23 Lashaga, 25 Revenue, 26 Ideal, 27 Below, 28 System.  
DOWN: 1 Reform, 2 Needful, 3 Ethereal, 4 Weep, 5 Inlet, 6 Elation, 7 Steep, 13 Segacity, 16 Dialect, 17 Charrn, 19 Alien, 20 Bedlam, 22 Rival, 24 Know.

**QUICK CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- Ball game (6)
- Captured (6)
- At hand (9)
- Small country (4)
- 10 36 inches (4)
- Scorches (5)
- Suggested (6)
- Steam baths (6)
- Man's hairdresser (6)
- Roman emperor (6)
- French artist (5)
- No person (4)
- European range (6)
- Save (6)
- Sharp pang (6)
- Swaying gait (6)

**DOWN**

- Cosmetic powder (6)
- Star (4)
- Went by sea (6)
- Repulsive (4)
- Skilled handicrafts (6)
- Repugnant (9)
- Very seriously (9)
- 11 Stretched (5)
- Long, heroic tales (6)
- Filled (6)
- Partial refund (6)
- Kidney-shaped nut (6)
- Save (6)
- Ireland (4)
- Parched (4)

**EXTRAORDINARY 21:30 PICKET FENCES**

22:30 El TV 23:00 Cornh Wintrey 00:00 Hoopeman 00:30 Home and Away 1:00 The Sullivan's 1:30 The Flying Doctors

**CHANNEL 5**

6:30 Bodies in Motion 7:30 Basic Training 16:00 Bodies in Motion 18:30 Handball 18:00 Gymnastics 19:30 Beach Volleyball 20:20 NBA Basketball 20:50 World Cup Soccer heats - highlights 20:45 Soccer Kick Boxing 00:00 Boxing

**EUROSPORT**

8:30 Trishooter: World Cup, Brazil (pt) 9:30 Sports Magazine 10:00 Cycling: World Championships, Switzerland - women against the clock - live 12:00 Soccer: World Cup heats (pt) 13:00 Cycling: World Championships, Switzerland - women against the clock (pt) 13:30 Cycling: World Championships, Switzerland - men against the clock - live 16:00 Tennis: CA Cup, Austria - live 19:00 Motor Sports Magazine 20:00 Soccer: World Cup heats - highlights 20:45 Soccer: France-Turkey friendly - live 22:45 Soccer: World Cup heats - highlights 00:00 Formula 1 Magazine 00:30 Snow Jumping: World Cup

**PRIME SPORTS**

6:00 Cricket: World Cup, Australia vs India 11:00 Golf: Dunhill Cup 12:00 Soccer from Spain 12:30 International Sports Magazine 13:30 International Motor Sports Magazine 14:30 Wundringair: 15:00 NBA Fanatics 15:30 Classic Soccer Games 17:30 Golf: Dunhill Cup 18:30 Asia Sports Show 19:00 Golf: European Tour 20:00 Water Sports Magazine 21:00 NBA Fanatics 21:30 Motorcycle Racing: World Cup, Spain 22:00 00:00 Golf: Dunhill Cup 1:00 International Motor Sports Magazine

**BBC WORLD**

News on the hour 9:05 Horizon (pt) 10:30 Tomorrow's World (pt) 11:30 Film '96 14:15 Panorama (pt) 15:15 World Business Report 15:30 Asia-Pacific Newshour 16:30 Floyd's American Pie 17:05 Timewatch (pt) 18:30 The Travel Show (pt) 19:00 World Report 21:05 International Report 22:30 The Fat Man in France cooking 23:00 World Business Report

**RADIO**

**VOICE OF MUSIC**

6:06 Morning Concert 8:05 Mendelssohn: Octet in E flat op 20; Schumann: Quartet in E flat for piano and strings op 44; Max Bruch: Violin Concerto in G minor, Op. 205; Symphony no 5; Beethoven: Serenade for violin, string arch, harp and percussion; Britten: A Simple Symphony 12:00 Light Classical - orchestral works by Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Prokofiev, Bizet, Chabrier 13:00 Rene Jacobs, countertenor - duets and cantatas by Carissimi 14:06 Grieg: Piano Concerto in D minor Brahms: String quartet no 3 in B flat op 67 (Budapest Qt); Massenet: Quartet no 2 in D (Anton Qt); Saint-Saens: Sonata no 1 in D minor for violin and piano op 75; D'Indy: Symphony on French Mountain Air; Franck: Symphony in D minor 20:05 Puccini: Tosca; Dvorak: Symphony no 7; Schumann: Manfred overture (cond. Ceccato); Britten: Prelude and Fugue for 18 strings (cond. Malsyniuk) 23:00 Golden Generation - Lily Pons, soprano, in

**CINEMA**

Hard 5, 7:15, 9:30 \* Phenomenon 4:45, 7, 9:30  
AFULA  
RAY CHEN 6:42:04:07  
Twister@Phenomenon 7, 9:30 \* Spy Hard 5:20 \* Cable Guy 7:15, 9:30 \* The Giant Peach weekdays 11 a.m.  
ARAD  
STAR The Cable Guy 7:30, 10 \* Starline 7:15, 9:30 \* Takes 2@Swan Princess 11:30 a.m., 5 \* Princess Swan 11:30 a.m., 5 \* Two Bit 7:30, 10  
ASHDOD  
G.G. GIL = 8647202 IA Time to Kill 4:30, 7:15, 10 \* Cable Guy@Spy Hard@St. Clara 5, 7:30, 10 \* Phenomenon 5, 7:30, 10 \* ASKELON  
G.G. GIL = 728977 Twister@Nuty Professor@St. Clara 5, 7:30, 10 \* Training@St. Clara 5, 7:30, 10 \* Babe (Hebrew dialog) 11 a.m., 5 \* Takes to Kill 4:30, 7:15, 10 RAV CHEN = 711223 Spy Hard@Cable Guy 5, 7:30, 9:50 \* Phenomenon 7:30, 9:50 \* Independence Day 4:10, 7, 9:30 \* The Huntback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialog) 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* It Takes Two 5 BAT  
RAV CHEN Spy Hard 5, 7:30, 9:50 \* Independence Day 4, 7, 9:50 \* Twister 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Cable Guy 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Phenomenon 5, 7:15, 9:45 \* Nutty Professor 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* G.G. GIL Twister@St. Clara@The Nutty Professor 5, 7:30, 10 \* A Time to Kill 4:30, 7:15, 10 RAV-NEGEV 1-4 = 232778 Spy Hard 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Independence Day 4, 7, 9:50 \* Cable Guy 5, 7:30, 9:45 \* Phenomenon 5, 7:15, 9:45 HADERA  
LEV Twister 5, 7:30, 10 \* James and the Giant Peach 5 \* Cable Guy 7:30, 10 \* Princess Swan 5, 10:10 \* Nutty Professor 5, 7:30, 10 \* Independence Day 7:30, 10 \* STAR 589068 Twister 7:30, 10 \* A Time to Kill 7:15, 10 \* The Nutty Professor 7:45, 10  
KARMIEL  
CINEMA KARMIEL 04-8882521  
Cable Guy 7:30 \* Spy Hard 7, 9:30 \* Independence Day 7, 9:45 \* James and the Giant Peach 4:30, 7:15, 10 \* ST. Clara@Spy Hard@Cable Guy 5, 7:30, 10  
KIRYAT BIALIK  
G.G. GIL = The Nutty Professor@Independence Day@St. Clara@Twister 4:45, 7, 9:30 \* The Huntback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialog) 4:45 \* The Huntback of 4:45 \* Takes Two 4:45 \* Swan Princess (Hebrew dialog) : 4:45  
KIRYAT BIALIK The Rock 8:30  
KIRYAT SHMONA  
G.G. GIL = 890590 Twister@Spy Hard 4:30, 7, 9:30 \* Time to Kill 7:15, 10 \* Babysteps 5  
LOD  
STAR Independence Day 7:15, 10 \* The Huntback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialog) 11 a.m., 5 \* The Cable Guy 7:30, 10 NAHARYA  
HECHAL HATARBUT The Huntback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialog) 5 \* Spy Hard 7, 9:15  
UPPER NAZARETH  
G.G. GIL = 74610 \* Two Bits 7:30, 9:30 \* Phenomenon 4:30, 7, 9:30 RAV-OR 1-3 = 824553 Spy

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Naomi Ziv



Ofer Cohen

## Savyon millionairess held in murder plot to kill husband

NAOMI Ziv, the millionairess from Savyon suspected of plotting with her lover, gardener Ofer Cohen, to murder her husband by planting two IDF fragmentation grenades under his jeep, was placed under house arrest for eight days by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. Cohen was remanded for six days.

Police appealed the court's decision, and Judge Rachel Greenberg agreed to keep Ziv in custody until a District Court judge hears the appeal today.

On Sunday night, Naomi Ziv discovered the grenades underneath her husband's car and alerted sappers, who defused them. It is still unclear why she looked underneath the jeep.

**RAINE MARCUS**

Moshe Ziv, a real estate agent who deals in property abroad, told police that he returned from the US recently, to discover that his wife was having an affair with the gardener employed to care for the garden surrounding their villa. The Zivs are in the process of divorcing.

Police found IDF explosives and firearms at Cohen's home and are examining whether they are linked to the IDF grenades installed under Ziv's vehicle. Cohen said that the weapons are necessary for his reserve duty, since he is an officer in a combat unit.

Both Ziv and Cohen admitted to having the

affair, but vehemently denied planting the grenades, which had they exploded, probably would have killed the vehicle's driver and passengers.

Defense lawyer Sassi Gez said in court yesterday that police do not have any evidence against his clients, and complained bitterly against the "unjustified arrests."

"Maybe Moshe Ziv planted the grenades," Gez suggested, adding that Naomi also drove the same jeep. "Or maybe someone else planted the grenades because Moshe Ziv owes money."

The couple, Gez added, are in the middle of ugly divorce proceedings, including bitter quarrels over property and assets.

## Opposition members walk out of Absorption Committee meeting

A MEETING of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee broke down yesterday when members of opposition parties walked out. Chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) called the meeting to discuss a recent report raising suspicions of mismanagement and corruption in the Council for Absorption, which is a public body. However, the committee members refused to address the issue before receiving a copy of the report, so Blumenthal changed the subject to a more general discussion

on the council's functions. Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'aliya) did not respond to an invitation to the meeting.

The report which prompted Blumenthal to call the meeting has not yet been presented to the committee members, although sections have been quoted in the press. Blumenthal has called for the council to be dissolved.

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) and Ofir Pines (Labor) objected to

**LIAT COLLINS**

the discussion going ahead before they received the report. Pines said he would not work based on rumors, while Chazan accused Blumenthal of acting out of political motives.

Zvi Kasa, the council's representative, also asked the discussion be postponed.

Meretz MK Yossi Sarid said nobody but Blumenthal was interested in holding the discussion, and one after the other committee members from opposition parties left the room, leaving former Immigration and Absorption

minister Yair Tzaban in an embarrassing situation as an invited guest unable to walk out.

Blumenthal said the public had a right to know about the council and if the committee was not prepared to discuss details before seeing the report it should at least learn some more about the council's work and apparatus.

She told reporters the walk-out was politically motivated and she stood firm on the principle that the committee had both the right and obligation to oversee the work of the public body.

## Public Defender's Office broke after a month's work

EVELYN GORDON

THE newly established Public Defender's Office exhausted its budget a month after it began work, and will be forced to close if more funds are not forthcoming, Public Defender Kenneth Mann warned the Knesset Law Committee yesterday. Mann also told the committee that some 80% of all defendants are not represented by a lawyer during remand hearings, while 50% do not have the benefit of a lawyer during their actual trials. This is a lower percentage of representation than in any other country in the Western world, he said.

The Public Defender's Office opened in June with a budget of NIS 8 million, with which, Mann said, it was expected to handle some 10,000 cases. This would work out to a budget of about NIS 800 per case. As a result of this severe underbudgeting, it ran out of funds within the first month. Since then, it has continued working, but none of its lawyers have been paid, and this situation cannot continue much longer, Mann said.

The Treasury recently promised the office an additional NIS 6 million to help it through the rest of the year. However, Mann said, this is not enough. He therefore asked the committee to help it obtain the necessary funds.

Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (NRP) promised that the committee would do what it could to help the office. The figures Mann presented regarding the large number of people who do not have legal representation are scandalous, he said, and this situation cannot be tolerated.

Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi asked the committee for 30 days in which to review the situation and try to work out ways to fund the office. The committee agreed to this request.

Currently, the Public Defender's Office operates only in the Tel Aviv region, and represents only defendants who face possible prison sentences of 10 years or more. It is eventually supposed to open offices in other parts of the country, but this depends on its budget.

## Knesset House Committee rejects proposal to cancel MKs' wage increase

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset House Committee yesterday rejected proposals for MKs to give up their 33 percent salary rise.

Committee chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) said some MKs were using the proposal to forgo the wage hike to demand a return to their previous higher pension rates and the right to moonlight at other jobs.

According to the recommendations of a committee led by Ariel Rosen-Zvi, which took several years to implement, MKs received a 33% wage hike but were forced to accept a drop in their annual pensions from 4% to 2% and a ban on outside work.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon also objects to a return to the previous situation.

Pinhasi said he was obliged to raise the subject at the request of

certain MKs, but was pleased the committee rejected the proposals.

MK Yehuda Harel (Third Way) asked the committee to delay the wage hike by at least a year in view of the budget cuts and because it would result in a wave of salary hikes among others in the senior civil service and its pensioners. Harel, however, objected to the idea of a return to the previous benefits for MKs.

Having heard the tone of the opposition to his request, Harel decided not to bring the matter to a vote.

Knesset Legal Advisor Zvi Inbar noted that MKs who violate the new regulations would be punished by having their salaries suspended for up to a year.

The ban on additional work for new MKs comes into effect in December.

## Journalists file police complaint against threats in Meshulam publication

RAINE MARCUS

THE Tel Aviv Journalists' Association has filed a complaint with Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz, asking him to investigate threats against journalists published by Uzi Meshulam, who is serving a prison sentence for charges arising from a two-month siege in his Yehud house.

A pamphlet published by Meshulam prior to his imprisonment accused the establishment of being responsible for the disappearance of Yemenite children in the 1950s, and contained articles railing against the police and authorities. The leaflet is still being published, and now includes articles against journalists.

The pamphlet is now written and distributed by Meshulam's supporters outside prison, but Meshulam apparently controls the publication from his prison cell.

Several days ago, Yediot Aharonot journalist Yehudit Yehezkieli, after seeing threats against her and other journalists in the publication, filed a complaint with Rehovot police. The journalists' association joined the complaint, asking police to put an end to the incitement and threats by Meshulam and his group.

Association chairman Arye Avneri yesterday faxed Hefetz asking him to launch an urgent investigation into Meshulam's behavior, to "stop the publication and distribution of the leaflet, by remote control from prison, and to prevent the continuation of threats against journalists and attempts to keep their mouths closed."

Meshulam was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment after he and 11 of his followers were convicted of endangering lives and illegal possession of weapons while barricading themselves in Meshulam's home and demanding an inquiry into the disappearance of Yemenite children in the 1950s.

Histadrut Treasurer Shmuel Avital confirmed the debt and said he would try to "deal with it."

The Histadrut Parliament yesterday approved the leadership's decision to close down most of the 80 local labor councils, fire 600 more workers and lower senior officials' wages.

Michal Yudelman

**WEATHER**

Jerusalem 18-25  
Tel Aviv 20-28  
Haifa 20-27  
Beersheba 18-30  
Golan 14-24  
Tiberias 20-32  
Ashdod 18-28  
Bnei Brak 15-25  
Dead Sea 25-33  
Eilat 22-33

Forecast: Partly cloudy.  
No change in temperatures.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	MOON	C	F
Alexandria	18			cloudy
Bahia	18			cloudy
Bombay	26			cloudy
Brussels	12			cloudy
Cairo	18			cloudy
Chicago	12			cloudy
Colon	26			cloudy
Frankfurt	12			cloudy
Helsinki	12			cloudy
Hong Kong	26			cloudy
London	12			cloudy
Los Angeles	14			cloudy
Madrid	14			cloudy
Moscow	12			cloudy
New York	12			cloudy
Paris	12			cloudy
Rome	14			cloudy
Sydney	18			cloudy
Tokyo	18			cloudy
Vienna	12			cloudy
Zurich	12			cloudy

**Winning numbers and cards**

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning numbers were the queen of spades, the ten of hearts, the seven of diamonds and the king of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 11, 13, 26, 33, 36 and 41, and the additional number was 32.

## Na'amat threatens legal action against Histadrut

NA'AMAT is threatening to take legal action against the Histadrut unless the latter immediately transfers the funds it owes to the women's organization.

The rift was caused by the Histadrut's failure to pay Na'amat some NIS 18.5 million as part of its 1995 and 1996 budgets.

Na'amat Chairperson Ofra Friedman said yesterday that the funds are urgently needed to pay Na'amat's workers, to fund the legal services bureaus for working women and to operate the recently opened battered women's shelter.

Histadrut Treasurer Shmuel Avital confirmed the debt and said he would try to "deal with it."

The Histadrut Parliament yesterday approved the leadership's decision to close down most of the 80 local labor councils, fire 600 more workers and lower senior officials' wages.

Michal Yudelman

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**MDA to experiment with tracking system**

MAGEN David Adom will soon install a tracking system in 19 ambulances in the Haifa region as an experiment to see if locating them by satellite will improve logistics.

MDA said yesterday that the system will allow controllers to know the exact location of every ambulance by looking at a computer screen. They will then be able to call on ambulances nearest to patients who need first aid. The satellite-linked system is expected to increase efficiency of the ambulance network and could be expanded to other parts of the country if the experiment succeeds.

Judy Siegel

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